THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 12 December 1997

For good or ill, history is made







As Gerry Adams visits Number 10 yesterday, a former paratrooper (top left) and Slnn Fein supporter make their views known Photographs (clockwise): Absolute/David Rose/Dave Thomson

became the first Prime Minister since Lloyd George in 1921 to welcome a Sinn Fein leader to 10 Downing Street when he met a delegation led by Gerry Adams. Colin Brown, **Chief Political** Correspondent, reports

on 53 minutes in Downing Street that Mr Adams called 'a good moment in history'.

The Prime Minister vesterday sat down across the Cabinet table from the former chief of staff of the IRA and told him: "May I look you in the eye and hear you say you are committed to peaceful means?"

Six years earlier, John Major's Cabinet had dived for cover under the table during an IRA mortar attack. The risks of the meeting were not lost on Mr Blair and Mr Adams, nor was the sense of history. After walking through the front door of Downing Street, the Sinn Fein delegation waited in an anteroom decorated with portraits of past prime ministers, Lloyd George, Balfour and Gladstone, all of whom, Mr Adams reminded Mr Blair in the talks, had tried and failed to resolve the Irish question.

Michael Collins, the last Sinn Fein leader to have crossed the threshold of Number Ten, in 1921, was assassinated a year after signing a deal

with Lloyd George which led to card bearing a dove of peace by Mowlam, the Northern Ire- Sinn Fein leaders, but it was commitment to "det partition, which Mr Adams said was "unfinished business".

Mr Adams, Martin McGuinness, and five Sinn Fein members arrived 10 minutes early for their meeting in two red Toyota people-carriers, to be greeted by cheers from supporters and jeers from opponents. As Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness stepped inside, they were handed a Christmas

Rita Restorick, mother of the last soldier killed in Northern Ireland.

There was a handshake hetween Mr Blair and Mr Adams before the Prime Minister showed Mr Adams, Mr McGuinness and their delegation to the Cabinet room. where they used first names over cups of tea. Mr Blair was flanked by officials and Mo

land Secretary, who pointed out that it was "not helpful" for the Sinn Fein leader to have wished "good luck" to the IRA killer who escaped from the Maze Prison on the eve of the talks.

Across the table, they faced delegation which included some with criminal records for terrorist offences. There was a symbolic importance in the meeting. Mr Blair told the more important that they were working for a settlement. If there was a return to violence they would lose the hest prospect we have had for a generation and there can be no go-

Mr Adams had responded to the Prime Minister's challenge by saying Sinn Fein had signed up to the six Mitchell principles, which included a

it's difficult for people when bey see Sinn Fein coming into Number 10 Downing Street." Mr Adams said: "We come from a small island of 5 million people of grief and pain and division over the centuries. We want to see it ending ... This was

and exclusively peaceful means

of resolving political issues", to

gain entry to the cross-party

talks. Later Mr Blair defended

the meeting: "What I think is

worth doing is taking risks.

even with people who in prior

times have been engaged in ac-

tivity we have all condemned.

It's important to take those risks

to give us that chance. I know

a good moment in history." The Sinn Fein team raised a shopping-list of causes - demands for a public inquiry into Bloody Sunday; release of republican prisoners; removal of hi-tech observation posts in Armagh; abolition of Britain's legislative claim to sovereignty over Ulster. A member of the team said decommissioning was never mentioned but detailed talks over the future of the Province will continue in Stormont. After yesterday's talks, which both sides described as "positive", the peace

process remains on track. Mr Adams urged Mr Blair to press David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, to agree to a face-10-face meeting with the Sinn Fein president.

Mr Adams said such a meeting with Mr Trimble would mark a further historic step, but Downing Street conceded that was one request which was outside Mr Blair's power,

INSIDE TODAY

Suzanne Moore: So who is this bitch you're smacking up, exactly?



Cannabis: The Independent on **Sunday conference** NEWS/3



Lament for little Lolita THE EYE

Plus 8 pages of Christmas presents INSIDETHEEYE



TELEVISION The Eye, page Q CECGSWOLDS Page 30 and the Eye, page 9
WEATHER The Eye, page 10

Web address: http://www.

independent.co.uk

"Take it from me, your memory need never let you down again."



Memory Power, together

with Lingoaphone, ooe of

the world's leading pub-lishers of self-education

courses, to help you take control of the vast potential

of your memory - jost as I did to become World

Memory Champion five con-

Many people find they can't

emember crucial lacts just when

they need them. When that

happens, the consequences can be embarrassing and sometimes

Transform your memory,

transform your life.

apportunities a better memory

will open up. You'll be able to remember names and laces;

speak in public with a new

confidence and clarity, study

new subjects more effectively;

"lust think of all the

secutive times.

and impress the world with your dazzling encyclopaedic knowledge. In fact, you'll have all the facts and figures you need at your fingerips. It worked for me -

so it cao work for you.
"You don't have to be an

academic high flyer to have a powerful, reliable memory. Look at me. I left school before doing 'A' levels - just because I thought l was going to fail. only I'd known then that

one day I'd be able to remember countless telephone numbers, triends' hirthdays and plan business appointments months in advance.

The reason Super Memory Power works is that it's based on a simple method that every-

You'll start improving your memory right from the first lesson. And it has the endorse-

ment of Linguaphone. See for yourself - FREE.

"Send for your FREE demonstration cassette and information pack now. Along with full details of the techniques you'll be using to improve your memory, you'll see for yourself just how easy and effective it is.

home mai. Simply telephone free an 0800 177 199 or complete and return the coupon below."

I'll also tell you about our 14-day

CALL **0800 177 199** FREE

YES, OF COURSE I would like to improve my memory skills. Please send me a demonstration cassette and information pack on Dominic O'Brien's "Super Memory Power"

Mr. Mrs/Miss/Ms

Postcode Post to (so stomp required) Super Memory Power, Freepost, London 5W15 2ZZ,

Keep the peace door open

Several cabinet ministers threw themselves under the table during the last republican visitation to Downing Street. Yesterday was a happier, better day, a conspicuous advance on the times when the republican intention was destruction and assassination.

Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and their associates went in by the front door, clutching nothing more lethal than briefcases and filofaxes.

In receiving the Sinn Fein delegation Tony Blair must have believed he was talking to some of the leaders of the IRA. for he has said Sinn Fein and the IRA are inextricably linked. He held no illusions, in other words, about the hands what he was shaking.

He was talking to them because he. like the Irish government and John Hume of the SDLP, subscribes to the concept of transition. He clearly believes that even a movement with roots so deeply implanted in the use of force can be brought into politics.

Some of this springs from new Labour pragmatism and impatience with the old stalemates, some from a cool judgement that the Adams leadership is serious

BY DAVID **MCKITTRICK**

about the unprecedented project of bringing the entire republican movement into politics.

At first this collided with the old Tory and Unionist belief that the Irish question was basically insoluble and that taking risks like this was futile since the republican leopard would never change its spots. Yesterday's encounter had its critics, of course, but it gave rise to little sense of a fierce outcry, outside me-

The peace pricess began life as an Irish nationalist creature, and was thus instinctively opposed by Unionists. But as the months have gone by buzzwords such as peace, talking and dialogue have taken root within the Unionist community too. First the businessmen, then some clerics, then even the paramilitary groups - some of whom have already been to

Downing Street - slipped into peace process mode.

Now David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, regularly finds himself in the same room as Gerry Adams at the Stormont talks, And now Gerry Adams finds himself talking to Tony Blair in Number 10. facing the British prime minister and also facing some facts. One key fact is that Irish unity is not

to be found in the foresecuble future: any conceivable agreement will still leave Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom. Ergo, the sceptics say, the IRA will go hack to violence.

Yet there is still much for republicans to gain from the process; a sense that they can make considerable interim advances, a sense that they may yet ultimately reach their goal, a sense of self-esteem.

Tony Blair will not have promised them the moon, will not have attempted to kid them that their dreams will all be answered. He may well be content if he has bolstered their sense that the peace process can work and that politics can achieve more for them than that mortar attack, and all the other acts of violence

TODAY'S NEWS

Kyoto takes first step Representatives of the world's nations in Kyoto have

agreed on a decisive step to begin tackling the threat of man-made climate change.

However, it will take about six years before it will be possible to judge whether the developed countries which have agreed to cut their annual output of six key global warming gases - are actually going to deliver.

The biggest doubt is over whether the United States. with its anti-Kyoto majority in Congress, will see it through Pages 9 and 19

Foster toy 'hurtful'
Adoption agencies yesterday called for a virtual reality toy. which tries to represent the raising of a foster child, to be removed from shops.

The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering said they were appalled at the toy, called Kimoko, saying that it was "insensitive" and "hurtful" to children who had been fostered or adopted. Children who play with Kimoko can feed her, educate her, play with her and discipline her if she is naughty. When Kimoko's IQ reaches a certain level she is adopted. Page 3

MPs forecast big revolt

Labour left-wingers were predicting a new and even higger revolt over disability benefits last night after 47 MPs voted against plans to cut lone parents' payments. Page 7.

Cook heads for races

Robin Cook has set a priority for his first visit to the Chinese mainland as Foreign Secretary, Officials have been cold that on the Hong Kong leg of the trip, their boss must have his night at the Happy Valley race track. Page 11

X COLUMN ONE

Why women have a higher order orgasm

The hrain, as any right-thinking person knows, is the most important sex organ. Now doctors think they know why.

The proof comes, in part, from a 44 year old woman with an unusual medical problem. She would be shopping, doing the housework, or listening to the radio when, doctors from the Western General Hospital in Edinhurgh report, "she would suddenly become aware of an internal, ascending feeling indistinguishable from an orgasm".

The orgasms, which lasted up to a minute, were uniquited, unexpected and unwelcome. She had them, on average, once a formight for three years. On several occasions they happened when she was driving and she had to pull over and stop until she had calmed down.

Once she was sitting listening to an "emotional" radio play with her sister, when she suffered an episode. On this occasion her left hand started jerking, she collapsed and momentarily blacked out. That was enough to send her to the doctor.

The woman; a divorcee with children, was embarrassed by her symptoms and it took some delicate questioning to eke them out of her. She



Mind games: Meg Ryan lets Billy Crystal into the secret of the female orgasm in the film 'When Harry Met Sally'

insisted the orgasms had no definite triggers and were neither pleasurable nor satisfying. The only clue to their cause was a sudden severe headache lasting several days she had suffered two years earlier,

A hrain scan revealed a deformed artery in the right temporal pole of her brain. Dr Paul Reading, her neurologist, described it as a type of "vascular birthmark". It had probably ruptured, causing the headache, and the resulting scarring had triggered epilepsy, he said. This in turn led to the orgasms because the area of the brain where the damage occurred is known to be linked with sexual sensations.

Twenty previous eases have been reported of epileptic seizures which triggered the sensation of orgasm, all in women, and all had a structural abnormality in the same area. Dr Reading said: "We know from cases like this where the orgasm centre is in the brain - at least in women."

Only one case is known of orgasmic seizures in a man and the location of the abnormality in that case - in the hypothalamus, the lower-order vegetative part of the brain which controls basic functions such as hormone production - suggests male orgasms have a different genesis.

Could this explain why intelligent mental activity is a more important ingredient of sex for women than for men? Dr Reading was cautious. "It underlines the difference hetween them," he said.

The woman was prescribed carbamazapine, a drug for epilepsy, and has led a satisfactorily quieter life since.

Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

CONTENTS News Features Health **Obituaries** Leader, letters **Politics** Environment Comment 20-24 Buslness News Shares Hong Kong 25-28 World news Sport The Eye, 29 Crossword World news Weather The Eye, 30 The Eye, 31-32 TV & Radio Arts news

PEOPLE



Red card: The First Lady found fame failed to save her at the University Club

Hillary gets the boot from Manhattan's posh club

It has been 10 years since the membership of the august University Cluh in midtown Manhattan voted to admit women. But as one member of the fairer sex can attest, some of its staff apparently still haven't got with the programme.

The person is question, however, probably will say nothing about her little contretemps with the club's stewards on Wednesday, which ended with both her and her female friend being ejected onto a sleety Fifth Avenue. That is because she is the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Happily, though, the First Lady's companion is paid not to be coy. She was Cindy Adams, gossip columnist extraordinaire of the New York Post. Thus, the whole incident was trumpeted across the paper's pages yesterday.

"KICKED OUT," hlared the giant frontpage headline, "Stuffy Manhattan club boots First Lady." Beneath that, in slightly smaller print, the self-serving adjunct: "Old coots tossed me out too, says Post's Cindy Adams."

The club, founded 132 years ago by graduates of Harvard, Yale and Columbia universities, refused all comment yesterday. The First Lady's press office in Washington stopped short of denying the tale, however. "Maybe it's something that has been blown a bit out of proportion." a spokeswoman offered.

Apparently, it began with Ms Adams taking out her mobile phone while walting for the First Lady

to show. An irritated "sculpture" - her term for a club official - approached and testily informed her that cellphones were hanned from the premises.

But it was after the First Lady plus aides had arrived and the group was getting down to serious chatter that the steward really got cross. We were all gaily settled into a few minutes of

girltalk when the sculpture loomed." Ms Adams writes, "Lumbering across the divide, he bore down on us. He stood over us - Hillary and I were side hy side, sunk deep into the couch - and in a thundering voice he bellowed: This is not permitted. We have rules here. We will not tolerate this."

Exactly what crime the happy due had committed is not made clear to readers. But perhaps that's because it was never clear to Cindy either. "We didn't know what 'this' was. Was it being women, was it being noisy, what?"

It made no difference when Ms Adams tried to press home to the steward the identity of her companion. He responded summarily: "This is not acceptable hehaviour. You will have to leave."

That was when Mrs Clinton decided that a hint had become a clear order to leave. Ahruptly standing, she said to Ms Adams, "Let's go". And they did,

Never mind. At least hack home Hillary can expect to get respect from the newest recruit to the White House: the First Puppy, name still uncertain. — David Usbome

C4 returns Helen Shapiro to top of the pops

der into a "girl on top" in a new . UK tour. documentary, but the diminutive singer is still threatening to sue the

Shapiro, 51, is furious about published Channel 4 programme notes for Brit Girls - One Hit Wonders describing her shining "brightly hut briefly" in the Sixties.

The star, who had number one hits with "You Don't Know" and "Walkin" Back To Happiness" in 1961 plus a string of other chart entries and currently has five albums on release, is supported by actors' union Equity. She fears the show, to be broadcast on Decem-

Channel 4 has turned singer He- her 20, will affect sales of her new sociated with people who had one len Shapiro from a one hit won- album and forthcoming 50-date hit and fell into obscurity. Helen

> Channel 4 changed its programme notes and retitled the documentary Girls On Top after Ms Shapiro complained about her inclusion in the series. The notes described her as "famously written off at the age of 15".

But the originals appeared in two national newspapers, on the Internet and in a listings magazine.

Her hushand and manager John Williams said: "This is doing tremendous harm to Helen's career and we helieve it is a clear defamation regardless of what is now broadcast, "She is being as-

has never stopped working.

"Helen had two number one hits and her gospel album has sold over 45,000 copies. She hardly died a death by 1962. A Channel 4 spokesman said:

"It is our understanding that the issue has heen settled." Girls on Top also includes Mil-

lie Small, the Jamaican singer who had a hit with "My Girl Lollipop". PP Arnold who sang the "First Cut is the Deepest" and Billy Davies, who had a hit with "Tell

--- Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

UPDATE

TRANSPORT

Britons cling to the driving seat

The public's obsession with the motorcar continues unabated, despite ministers' pleas to get out of the driving seat and on to public transport.

The latest survey, from Equifax, a credit service, shows that three out of four motorists said they were against the government proposals. Only three in ten people believed that more efficient trains and buses would mean fewer cars on the road. The car capitals of Britain, where households have more than one vehicle in the driveway, were Guildford, where residents crave higger, brasher models such as BMW and Mercedes, Hemel Hempstead, Redhill, Slough and Kingston-apon-Thames. Politically, transport could be a bomh the Government does not wish to defuse. In doing so, it would need to tackle car-use in such newly won Labour strongholds as Stevenage in Hertfordshire, placed eighth in the car-capital table. - Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent

onferen

*Labour's

ne to aid of

~ : • - • • •

SOCIETY

Women caught in poverty trap

Women continue to face a life of "poverty", receiving just half of men's average incomes, according to a report today.

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) said that women aged over

40 received less than half of men's income, but did not qualify for social security benefits in many cases. Women's lower pay made it harder for them to safeguard their income when out of work and those with caring responsibilities are further penalised because if they take a career break to look after a member of their family, it is difficult for them to make adequate pension arrangements, said the report. "At the moment, women with caring responsibilities hear the hrunt of the mismatch between their work patterns and the benefit system," said Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the EOC

NORTHERN TRELAND

Army's lost guns go to paramilitaries

Of 47 British army weapons lost, stolen or otherwise "unaccounted for in Northern Ireland, almost a third are thought to have ended up with kyalist or republican paramilitaries, it was revealed yesterday.

The figures, which include handguns, rifles, and machine guns, were disclosed in a written answer from John Reid, of the Ministry of Defence, to Labour MP Kevin McNamara. Dr Reid discloses that of the figures available, eight weapons were "believed to have fallen in the hands of "republican paramilitaries, while six were thought to have ended up with loyalists.

Call for cash to help fund civil cases

The Consumers Association today calls for a legal fund to be set up for people who are deterred from litigation because of the expense.

The Contingency Legal Aid Fund would pay for someone's costs if they lost a legal action, providing they agreed in advance that if they won, a slice of their damages would be paid to subsidise others. Such a fund would help meet the feared gap under proposals by the Lord Chancellor to remove legal aid for all civil cases involving damages or compensation. In particular the fund could help low-income applicants bring important test cases. The association's lawyer, Alison Lindley, said if the Lord Chancellor's department failed to consider the issue it would be a "missed opportunity"

 Contingency Legal Aid Fund, Consumers Association, PO Box 44, Hertford X, SG14 1SH

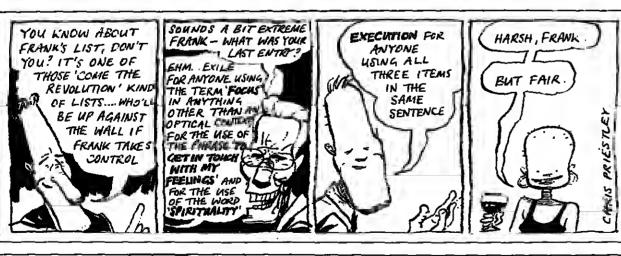
- Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent

| TOURIST RATES | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Australia (dollars) Austria (schillings) | 2.39 20.09 | Italy (lira) Japan (yen) | 2,8 3 2 ,14 |
| Belgium (francs) | 59.07 | Malta (lira) | 0.62 |
| Canada (\$) | 2.29 | Netherlands (guilders) | 3.22 |
| Cyprus (pounds) | 0.83 | Norway (kroner) | 11.7 |
| Denmark (kroner) | 10.96 | Portugal (escudos) | 290.44 |
| France (francs) | 9.58 | Spain (pesetas) | 241.46 |
| Germany (marks) | 2.87 | Sweden (kroner) | 12.60 |
| Greece (drachmei) | 453.03 | Switzerland (francs) | 2.32 |
| Hong Kong (\$) | 12.42 | Turkey (lira) | 321,016 |
| Ireland (punts) | 1.10 | USA (\$) | 1.61 |
| | | Sacr | rce: Thomas Cook |
| l . | | Robert for molecul | the sustance and |

7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman









Christmas Day "Thanks ever so much

for the jumper."

December

"No really, I do

New Year's Day January "So you're <u>sure</u> i don't need a receipt?"

Chat as long as you like over Christmas for just 50p.



if auld-acquaintance be forgot, then thank heavens for the Cable & Wireless offer on UK long distance calls. Whether you call Aunt Lorna on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, or New

Year's Day, it doesn't matter how long it takes to catch up, it won't cost more than 50p. On these three days (as well as every Saturday and Sunday up to 31 December 1997), every UK long distance call will be

charged at the normal rate until it reaches 50p. After that, you can stay on the phone for as long as you like without paying a penny more. This seasonal offer is just one of the many ways we can save you money

on your calls every day of the week. So, for a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year, see how much you could save with Cable & Wireless, FreeCall, 0500 500 366 quoting RINDCL



3/NEWS

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT



Iriving seat

io paramilitaries 🤝

I fund civil cases

William Hague's Udaipur romance, plus Angela Bulloch's photo diary of the Turner Prize ISM, THE SATURDAY MAGAZINE



Meltin the **Maldives TIME OFF**

The true lottery odds YOUR MONEY Complete guide to the week THE EYE

Conference calls for change in the law on cannabis



Weed worship: Participants at the debate in London yesterday make known their views on the use of cannabis

Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, observes that as they did, 200 miles up the MI, lottery millionaire Colin Sampson discovered how the law works in practice.

Scientific experts, MS sufferers

and weed worshippers yesterday

debated decriminalising cannabis.

The Queen Elizabeth II Centre at Westminster, where the Independent on Sunday conference was being held, is a non-smoking huilding. So perhaps it was appropriate that the keenest cannahis users had brought hash brownies instead.

Nearly 700 people attended yesterday's meeting - described as the first con-ference to "openly dehate" whether cannahis should be legalised. Delegates ranged from soberly suited doctors and nurses to imaginatively attired hippies and the exotically named Free Roh Cannahis, who changed his name by deed poll to make his point.

The vast majority of delegates had the same aim; a change in the law, whether for civil liberties or for therapeutic purposes. And one of the main points repeatedly made was that the law is strongly enforced in some places whereas in other areas police turn a hlind eye.

Colin Sampson would probably raise a wry smile at this. Mr Sampson won £5.4m on the National Lottery a year ago hut was in a Sheffield court yesterday admitting possession of cannahis worth £600, and a cannabis plant. He was given a conditional discharge for two years and ordered to pay £50 costs

His solicitor, George Tierney, told Sheffield magistrates that the drug was for Mr Sampson's own use and that, had he not been a lottery millionaire, he would probably have escaped with a caution. "It's fairly true to say that if this defendant still lived on the Stradbroke estate with 2.8 chil-Photograph: Brian Harris dren in a council house, working as he al-

ways had, he would not be here and the subject of media attention," he said.

Mr Sampson said later that his lottery win and the publicity that followed had been the trigger for his drugs use. "Although I cannot excuse my illegal acts, the main cause of my unhappiness and subsequent recourse to the use of cannahis has been the unsolicited and unwanted media attention that I have attracted," he said.

Speaking at the conference, Mike Goodman, director of Release, the civil rights organisation for drug users, said a million people will be guilty of cannahis related offences by the millennium if present rates continued. "People should have the right to make decisions over their own lives providing they do not harm others," he said.

Mr Goodman was one of nine speakers, including Professor John Strang, director of the National Addiction Centre, Body Shop founder Anita Roddick, and Professor Colin Blakemore, president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Although debating a drug best known for its relaxing qualities, the discussion grew heated, with cries of "Freedom!' and "Skin up!" as strange smells wafted across the audience.

Nigel Evans, Conservative MP and former chairman of the all party Drugs Misuse Group, urged no change in the law. He said that the idea that decriminalisation would have little or no effect on consumption levels was "several steps removed from reality".

"Keeping drugs as a controlled substance keeps the number of young users down. Decriminalisation removes the stigma of criminality and increases usage," he said above heckles.

Rosie Boycott, the editor of the Independent on Sunday, said it was a "historic debate ... the first time the whole issue of cannahis has been quite so openly dehated, a stone's throw away from the mother of parliaments."

She said she had received a letter from the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, saying that the Government was against the legalisation of cannabis.

New Labour's Christmas bashes come to aid of the party season

Labour's first Christmas for a generation in power is being accompanied by a renaissance of festive parties. Kim Sengupto watches the glitter return to political soirées, as the Government sails through stormy waters.

Christmas is approaching at New Cametot. Champagne flows, the lights are hright and the conversation hrighter at Downing Street. There are Cherie Booth and Tony Blair. graciously welcoming guests. Chris Evans, would-be media magnate, arrives with Elisabeth Murdoch, daughter of a rather more established one. Zoe Ball talks to John Thaw, as scores of lesser-knowns gaze at the glittering rooms, political stars and networking celebrities.

Near by at the Commons, New Labour's united front is under intense pressure in a welter of outrage over the cutting of benefits to single parents.

ministers of betraval and loss.

But the little local difficulty has not stopped this becoming a vintage year for political parties. There is a marked contrast. say those who attend, to last year, where parties thrown by a doomed Tory government "had all the cheer of a concert on the Titanic when they have already seen the iceberg".

After the 18-year march through the wilderness. Labour is laying on the style. Just as

America were deemed to be more fun than those of the Republicans, Labour is judged to be simply better at throwing parties. Big and small, glitzy and more humble, they are erupting up and down Whitehall.

One of the best-attended was thrown by Robin Cook at the Foreign Office's Locarno room, huilt as a "drawing-room for the nation". A French guest said it was one of the best he had ever heen to,



There are tears, recriminations Street cred: Tony Blair partying with the Coronation and resignations, a sense among Street actress Elizabeth Dawn

many backbenchers and some soirées by the Democrats in noting a mood of "optimism and vibrancy " which had been miss-

ing in recent years.

Chris Smith's party for the Department of Culture Media and Sport, held at the National Gallery on the same night, lost some guests as a result, though those there had a free run of the Van Goghs, Monets and Cézannes to distraci them. A journalist from a right-wing newspaper, asked at the Foreign Office whether he would he going to Mr Smith's party, responded: "Like Goehbels, whenever I hear the word culture, I want to reach for my gun". Picking up another glass of wine, he reflected: "Not a bad bash is it? If they go on like this I will even warm to this gibberish about ethical nuking or whatever they go on about".

Pressure groups say New Labour's advent has led to renewed interest in political activity among showbiz personalities, exemplified by a freedom-of-information bash last night, due to be an ended by the likes of Harold Pinter and and Bianca Jagger. Celebs may awake with aching heads and dry mouths. But at least, they can reflect, they are doing their Photograph: PA patriotic duty by the new es-

ARMANI



Toy foster child is condemned

Adoption agencies yesterday called for a virtual reality lov, which tries to represent the raising of a foster child, to be removed from shops.

The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering said they were "appalled" at the toy, called Kimoko the Fosterling. saying that it was "insensitive" and "hurtful" to children who had been fostered or adopted.

Children who play with Kimoko can feed her, educate her, play with her and discipline her if she is naughty. When Kimoko's IQ reaches a certain level she

The packaging for the toy tells the

child: "Kimoko was deserted at birth by both her parents. She is now in your care as your foster child. If you raise her well ... she will turn into a lovely young girl. Then she will be adopted and leave you to join her new family."

The BAAF said it had had complaints about the toy from both children and carers who had found it "very upscitting".

Its director Felicity Collier said vesterday: "The misleading messages this game gives about being in foster care are most insensitive and could actually he hurtful to children who may already have experienced some sadness. -Children in care are among the

most vulnerable in society and need all the support we can give them. It is most unhelpful when games such as this arc circulating among their peers.

Ms Collier said that the idea that a certain level of IQ ensured adoption was "outrageous". She added that most children in foster care eventually return to their parents. To assume adoption is a reward for good behaviour is outrageous

"We urge all parents who are considering buying this toy for their children to think about the consequences for other

> Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent

Flash in the pan: Fiona Rylance, an inspection assistant, firing a musket on the firearms licensing course run by West Yorkshire police - set up in the wake of the Dumblane tragedy; licensing officers were asked to fire a 'black powder' pistol due to gun owners' renewed interest in the firearms, which are not covered in the handgum ban Photograph: Nigel Hiller

will save you uo to 10% OFF FRIENDS & FAMILY On calls to your 10 nominated numbers 15% OFF PREMIERLINE on your calls A discount on your direct-dialled calls **AND NOW 25% OFF** BT'S EXTRA CALLS SALE A further discount on any calls, including international, made in excess

There's good news if you're a member of both BT's Friends & Family and PremierLine schemes. You could save as much as 50% on your calls. There's the 25% credit you can get with BT's Extra Calls Sale, plus the 25% discount you receive on your calls to your nominated numbers.* The Extra Calls Sale starts from the first bill you receive after 1st October and means you will get 25% back on any calls made over the following three months, in excess of your average call bill. So over this period you could get as much as 50% off. For details call 24hr Freefone 0800 222 444.

THE BT EXTRA CALLS SALE APPLIES TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS DIRECTIONAL UNIT OF CALLS TO MOBILES ARE EXCLUDED.
THE 25% IS OFF BT'S NORMAL PRICE FOR THE CALL ON THE DAY IT IS MADE, EXCLUDING SPECIAL OFFERS, AND IS CREDITED AS A REBATE TO THE CUSTOMER'S PIRST BILL AFTER MARCH 1998, "F&F GIVES A DISCOUNT OF 10% ON 10 NOMINATED MUMBERS, ONE OF WHICH CAN
BE INTERNATIONAL AND ONE MOBILE (CALLS TO A NOMINATED MOBILE NUMBER BY A PREMIERLINE CUSTOMER RECEIVE A DISCOUNT OF 15%). F&F IS NOT AVAILABLE TO LIGHT USER SCHEME CUSTOMERS, PREMIERLINE IS RECOMMENDED FOR CUSTOMERS WITH CALL RIP & STENTLY OVER CAS A QUARTER AND A FEE OF 26 A QUARTER IS PAYABLE.

Guardian writer 'naive and silly'

Victoria Brittain, a senior journalist at The Guardian, has been called "surprisingly naive" by her paper's ombudsman for allowing her bank account to be used to channel money to fund a libel action against The Independent.

Kathy Morks examines the internal Guardian report on Ms Brittain's conduct.

Ms Brittain, the Guardian's deputy foreign editor, "made a silly mistake" and showed "poor judgement" in allowing her account be used by Kojo Tsikata, former head of the Ghanaian security service, as a conduit for £250,000 of legal fees.

John Willis, the paper's omhudsman, says he accepts that sbe was not aware that much of the money came from Libyan sources, and concludes that she did not compromise her journalistic integrity in helping out Mr Tsikata, an old friend.

He calls it "curious". though, given the closeness of the friendship, that their conversations about the origins of the funds were as limited as she

"While accepting that she never asked Mr Tsikata where the money came from, it is surprising that, as a journalist, and knowing the sensitivity of these matters, she did not ask," Mr Willis says.

Ms Brittain's actions came to light last August when David Shayler, a former MI5 officer, revealed that she had been the target of a year-long surveillance operation which included telephone taps and a plan to raid her home.

MI5 suspected that she was involved in money laundering, ruled that the article in The Inbut it transpired that the funds were being transferred to Bindman and Partners, a London firm of solicitors which was representing Mr Tsikata in his tion, arguing that publication of

Mr Willis accepts that, apart from administering the money, Ms Brittain played no part in the litigation, which arose from an article in The Independent in 1992 about a public inquiry into the execution of three high-court judges in Ghana.

She was more than a "mere postbox", as originally asserted by Mr Rusbridger, since she transferred the money between her own accounts and then into Bindman's, faxing Mr Tsikata to nofify him when funds arrived. But, Mr Willis adds: "How-

ever unpalatable for some people to see one journalist implicitly supporting a libel action against others, there is nothing fundamentally wrong with that ... her actions seem to have been limited and she was some way from being a signifi-

the Saudi Arahian embassy m London.

Mr Willis says there is "absolutely no evidence" that Ms Brittain was aware of the source of the funds, apart from a cheque for £10,000 from Youssef Ibrahim, a Ghanaian

But he says: "To allow your bank account to be used in this way without thinking that you could be compromised ... is surprisingly naive." It would have been "wiser, more prudent" for her to have avoided any involvement.

He concludes that Ms Brittain will have to live with claims of potential hias if she ever writes about Ghana again. But he says she did not personally profit from the affair and "is surely entitled to one piece of bad judgement".

The Court of Appeal has dependent was protected by qualified privilege. Mr Tsikata's solicitors have indicated that he intends to proceed with the action against The Independent. the report was "malicious".

IRA killer escapes in drag

A convicted IRA killer who escaped from the Maze prison on yesterday passed through at least three security checks dressed as a woman, it emerged.

There was no trace yesterday of 32-year-old Liam Averell, who made his way out amid scores of women and children who had attended a Christmas party at the jail, which is supposed to be the UK's most secure penal institution. The general assumption is that he will follow the traditional republican escapers' route of heading for the Irish Re-

In the wake of the security hreach the Northern Ireland Secretary, Dr Mo Mowlam, announced the setting up of an inquiry to be headed by Dr Martin Narey, head of the prison services's head of security and policy division in London. He will be assisted by Dr Peter Bennett, governor of Not-

Farmers see sliver of hope

Farmers were yesterday given a glimmer of hope following the turmoil of the last few weeks, when the European Commission agreed to speed up moves to lift the han on exports of British beef.

Meetings scheduled for early next year are to be brought forward to next week in order to try to appease farmers reeling from a series of blows to the industry. The decision to bring the talks forward followed a meeting in Brussels between farmers and Emma Bonino, the EU Consumer Health Commissioner. Mrs Bonino also promised to weigh up the "balance of risks" before taking on board proposals for a han on sales of lamh on the bone.

Kate Watson-Smyth

ers may suffi

¹ autism

Boost for South Bank plan

of your average call bill

tingham prison.

A £75 million Lottery bid to cover London's South Bank Centre with a Richard Rogers glass canopy is being backed by the Arts Council, but the hurdle of available funds remains, the Council's chairman, Lord Gowrie, said.

The Arts Council is asking Culture Secretary Chris Smith for an "advance" on its Lottery cash so it can give the project the green light without stalling other new applications. Philosophical SBC hidders hailed the Arts Council's "resounding endorsement" of the project.

"We are much further forward than we were before."

We make music easier to track down.

d comfor Libyan sources, particularly Khalifa Ahmed Bazelya, head of the Libyan interest section at the Saudi Arabian its docto

(centre spread, tabloid section.)

5/HEALTH NEWS

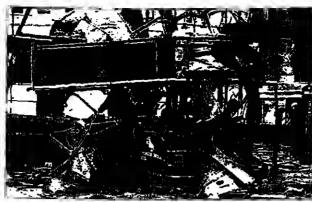
lan

Ear implant may signal end to the world of silence of bus-driver deafened by IRA blast

A London bus-driver deafened by an IRA bomb blast has had surgery in a final attempt to recover his hearing. Bob Newitt, 51, was made profoundly deaf when a bomb blast ripped through the bus he was driving along the Aldwych in February last year.

Yesterday, Chris Raine, consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon, said Mr Newitt was doing well after receiving a cochlear implant at Bradford Royal Infirmary. It will not be known how successful the operation has been for at least a month, when external parts are fitted.

Lecds, said he was feeling a bit sore but had been assured all went well during the operation on his left ear. "I feel good, a bit sore and dizzy," he scribbled on a piece of paper from his hospital bed in answer to writsent I could have for Christmas." For Mr Newitt,



The remains of the bus in the Aldwych which Mr Newitt Photograph: Edward Webb

unusual way.

Mr Raine added: "Tests

Mr Newitt, who now lives in who has learnt to lip-read, the operation is the final effort by doctors and scientists to end his world of silence.

Mr Raine said: "Most adults who have a cochlear implant have lost their hearing as a re-relays sounds as electronic imsult of an infection, such as ten questions. "It's the best pre- meningitis or a congenital defect ... In our experience it nerves, is extremely rare . . . to perform

eased our worst fears about nerve damage. But, as with all cochlear-implant patients, we are entering a journey into the unknown when predicting how successful it may be. Mr Newitt has undergone ... tests and scans to assess his suitability and the signs are promising."

Mr Newitt's hus was destroyed when a bomb being carried by Edward O'Brien exploded prematurely, killing the IRA man, Mr Newitt received injuries

to his back and shock waves damaged his chest cavity and such an operation on a patient lungs but no bones were hrowho has become deaf in such an ken. Although Mr Newitt recovered well from these A cochlear implant, a small injuries, his hearing was damelectronic device, is placed unaged and doctors later found der the skin behind the ear and two hairline cracks in his skull. A cochlear implant cannot repulses through a wire into the store normal hearing but a cochlea, stimulating the hearing range of sounds can he heard and recognised.



A cochlear implant may give Mr Newitt new hope. Although it cannot restore hearing, a range of sounds - Esther Leoch can be heard and recognised

Cold comfort [™] for live-saving **Scots doctors**

Frozen casualties of the winter cold whose hearts had stopped, in some cases for hours, have been revived by doctors with a heart-lung machine normally used for cardiac surgery. Janet Boyle reports on a technique that can bring hypothermia victims back from the dead.

The cold of a Scottish winter had chilled the victims into suspended unimation. But the temperature that brought them no detectable beartbeat. With expert care, doctors discovered, they could be brought

So far, five patients who were apparently dead have been given specialised re-warming treatment by doctors at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Two later walked out of the hospiwere brought round but later died from complications. Only the fifth could not be revived.

icapes in drag

sliver of hope

The four men and one woman, aged from 30 to 55, were resuscitated by doctors at the Royal's Accident and Emergency department. Two were found on the streets, two others at home, and one had been rescued from the Clyde. Gordon McNaughton, senior registrar, said: "When they arrived here their hearts had stopped and their temperatures varied between 22C and 30C, compared with the body average of 37C. It was vital to establish firstly whether the patient stood a like- abdominal cavities.

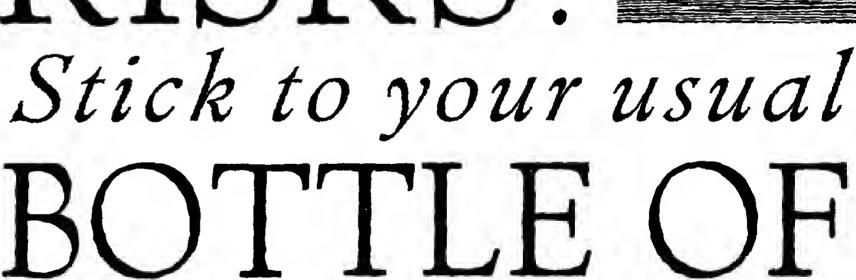
ly chance of survival." The doctors checked their blood levels of potassium, which is released at death. A high level indicates the end of life, "Success is very unlikely in someone with a very high level of potassium," Dr Mo-Naughton said. Where the test showed there was a chance, staff connected the patient to the heart-lung machine via tubes inserted into the groin.

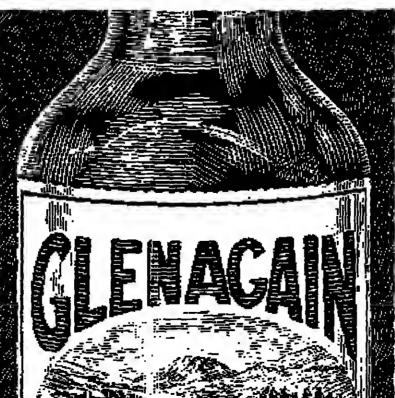
The blood was removed and rewarmed to 37C by pumping it through the by-pass machine. By applying heat internally rather than externally the vital organs - heart and brain - are warmed first. If a severely hypothermic body is warmed to death's door also protected from the outside, the blood their brains and other organs rushes from the brain and the during the bours they spent with heart and may prevent the patient recovering. Doctors say a hypothermic body is not dead until it is warm and dead.

The cold protects the hrain and vital organs while the patient's heart has stooped. But doctors cannot tell whether the patient will survive until the thawing is complete. Those who are going to survive resume ial fit and well, and two more a heart beat when the body temperature reaches 35C. "There have been cases reported of survival after prolonged cardiac arrest," Dr McNaughton added.

As well as by-pass treatment the patients require cardiopulmonary resuscitation with a mechanical breathing and chest-thumping machine. This avoids the chance of staff tiring, because resuscitation can take up to five hours. Previous research suggests half of patients with severe hypothermia survive. Other techniques for rewarming have been used. including introducing warm saline solution into the chest and

Why take unnecessary





Glenwhatever.

There's nothing safe about our single malt. We offer no money back guarantee if you're not totally satisfied. We're well aware that the uncompromising taste of Laphroaig (la-froyg) leads to extremes. Its pungent, earthy aroma and sweet, heathery smokiness are just as likely to dissuade as they are to delight. It's a gamble. But as they say 'nothing ventured... same again?'

Loners may suffer from autism

collection of rocks in the attic. an encyclopaedic knowledge of train timetables and a nonexistent social life may be suffering from a mental disorder.

Autism, the condition characterised by social withdrawal. luck of empathy and indifference to others may affect neople in a mild form so that it merges into "what can be called eccentric normality , according to a leading psychiatrist.

thought to affect up to 5,000 people and has a genetic cause. is marked by problems of social interaction, communication and imagination. Autistic people lack the capacity to read social situations, tend to he socially clumsy and suffer isolation as a result. It is fascinating because it disturbs something that is at the core of being human.

Dr Lorna Wing of the Centre for Social and Communication Disorders in Bromley, Kent. says that although must people have an image of antism as se-

The eccentric academic with a verely disabling, in some sufferers impairment is so subtle that they may be seen as simply loners. They tend to be absorbed in their own interests and lack empathy for others. Some marry but partners tend to feel a lack of emotional rapport.

Writing in the Lancet, Dr Wing says there is no cure, but people with autism can be helped with education tailored to their disabilities. Their schooldays are often stressful because they will The condition, which is not conform to demands of teachers or fellow pupils.

-Most are happier as adults and may follow successful careers, sometimes of high academic distinction. Some learn the rules of social interaction by rote, while others remain solitary by choice."

However, she adds: "High functioning people with antistic disorders have been able to describe their experiences of the world as a confusing and frightening place."

Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

LAPHROAIG no half measures.

Seeing double: William Hague, the Conservative leader, posing with his Madame Tussaud's image in the London museum yesterday. His fiancée, Ffion Jenkins, stands between the wax model, who wears a Hugo Boss suit donated by Mr Hague, and the real thing

Freedom of information proposal gets high praise and conduct its own debates Rare, across-the-board

acclaim greeted the Government White Paper on freedom of information yesterday. A practised hand at trying to get information out of the government machine, Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, takes a closer look at Your Right

The heartfelt welcome from Richard Shepherd, the Conservative MP who initiated a backbench Bill for more open government a decade ago, was worth far more than the qualified, "constructive" support of the Opposition frontbench in the Commons yesterday.

to Know.

But the surprise felt by proponents of open government was best summed up by the reaction of Maurice Frankel, long-standing director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, who called the document "stunning". In a Commons statement, David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Cahinet minister directly responsible for the White Paper, went out of his way to praise the contrihution of Lord Irvine of Lairg. the Lord Chancellor, who

safe delivery. Mr Clark said the statutory right of access offered by the White Paper to information and records "will transform the culture of government and make it more open and accountable. It is a huge step towards rebuilding trust between

chaired the Cabinet Committee

on the matter - and ensured its

government and the people." Some of the main features of the White Paper were remarkable. Information held by privatised water boards, other utilities, and the BBC, as well as the armed forces, hospitals and schools, would be opened up. although, as Mr Shepherd discovered in Commons questions, it was unclear whether rights to openness would extend to the European Council. Mr Frankel was also impressed that the enforcement powers of a new Information Commissioner would be as tough as those of any court, to compel the Government to release in-

formation. The White Paper goes further than we had thought any British Government would be willing to go," Mr Frankel said. But there were a number of serious gaps that could impede genuine inquiries.

Dr Clark told The Independent that there was no question of departments setting up catalogues or indices of the information they held, to give the public a better idea of what was available. "There can't be an index," he said. "There is no need for an index." But even the Croham Directive, an ineffectual attempt at open government issued by Sir Douglas Allen, Head of the Home Civil Service, 20 years ago, conceded that a digest of information available would provide enormous support for any right to know.

Without such assistance, scarches can become worse than looking for needles in Whitehall haystacks. Without knowing specifically what they are looking for, people could face the charge that they are indulging in what vesterday's White Paper called "large-scale fishing expeditions or other applications which would result in a disproportionate cost or diversion of the public authority's resources ...

There was also an insistence that the public could not be allowed access to the innermost policy advice and decision-making discussions of government, where disclosure would cause harm - rather than the "substantial harm" test that it be applied to other protected areas of information, like defence and law enforcement.

Total amount payable £1594.

LOW

PRICE

PROMISE

OUR PRICES ARE NEVER BEATEN

OPEN TO

TRADE & PUBLIC

7 DAYS A WEEK

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-8

SATURDAY 9-6

and SUNDAY (Open 6 hours,

times may vary**)

The White Paper says: Now, more than ever, government needs space and time in which to assess arguments

with a degree of privacy."

The particular points of policy protection included: the maintenance of collective ministerial responsibility - or the disclosure of splits; and the political impartiality of public officials - the exposure of their engagement in politically sen-

But the White Paper does include a case-by-case public interest clause, under which officials would be expected to consider whether a decision not to disclose information might itself "result in substantial barm to public safety, or the environment". In welcoming the proposal to appoint an Information Commissioner to police the open government process, the Campaign for Freedom of Information noted "that complainants would not have to bear the potentially prohibitive costs of going to court to enforce their rights.

However, Dr Clark told The Independent that the Commissioner would be appointed by the Prime Minister - a critical choice, and a significant power, if the process is to run

YOUR RIGHT to know

 White Paper offers public a statutory right of access to official records and informa-

 Scope includes not only Government departments, NHS, local authorities and quangoes like Atomic Energy Authority - but privatised utilities, too.

 Exclusions include Security and Intelligence services, like MI5 and MI6, as well as speoal forces like the SAS.

 A right of access will be provided for records or information of any date, for normal fee of £10 maximum, provided no substantial harm caused.

 Seven areas to be protected: national security, defence and international relations; law enforcement; personal privacy; commercial confidentiality; public, individual and environmental safety; and information supplied in confi-

 Additional protection for Government decision-making and policy advice, and 30year closure rule remains for historical records. Information Commissioner

to adjudicate and enforce nights of access, but with no back-up right of appeal to courts.

 New criminal offence to be created for wilful or rede less destruction, alteration or withholding of records from Commissioner.

smoothly. In his preface to the White Paper yesterday, Tony Blair said: "The traditional culture of secrecy will only be broken down by giving people in the United Kingdom the legal right to know. This fundamental and vital change in the relationship between government and governed is at the heart of this White Paper."

But John Redwood, the Conservative Trade and Industry spokesman, told The Independent last night that for all its spirit of openness, he had been unable to find out from the Government the precise role being played by Geoffrey Rohinson, the Paymaster General, in the negotiation of new coal contracts, and he was baving difficulty in getting the Government to accept Commons questions on such matters. "It's a funny old world," he said, "strange how these coincidences keep on happening."

Following public consultation on the White Paper, the Government hopes to produce a draft Bill by summer, with the possibility of legislation starting within 12 months and enactment by the summer of 1999. The law would then be phased in over time, but with the real possibility of widespread change before the next election.



14 14 14

STOCKTON

SWANSEA

TELFORD

TRURO

WAKEFIELD

WARRINGTON

SUNDERLAND

DAY DELIVERY

MILTON KEYNES

NORTHAMPTON

POOLE

READING

ROTHERHAM

SOUTHAMPTON

IPSWICH

LONDON

BECKTON

CROYDON

MANCHESTER

STAPLES CORNER

FOR YOUR NEAREST STAPLES STORE

BRADFORD

CAMBRIDGE

CARDIFF

CHATHAM

WEST BROMWICH CHELMSFORD

COLCHESTER

DONCASTER

HIGH WYCOMBI

HANLEY

HULL

OR TO PLACE AN ORDER FREEFONE

ASHTON

BASINGSTOKE

BIRMINGHAM:

ASTON WATERLINKS

SOUTH YARDLEY

THE 47

DISSIDENTS

Diane Abbott (Hackney N and Stoke Newington), John Austin (Erith and Thamesmead), Harry Barnes

(Derbyshire NE), Tony Benn (Chesterfield), Dr Roger Berry (Kingswood). Harold Best (Leeds NW), Ronnie

Campbell (Biyth Valley),

Dennis Canavan (Falkirk

W), Martin Caton (Gower),

David Chaytor (Bury North),

Malcolm Chisholm (Edin-

hurgh N and Leith), Ann

Clwyd (Cynon Valley), Frank

Cook (Stockton N), Jeremy

Corbyn (Islington N), Ann

Cryer (Keighley), John Cry-

er (Hornchurch). Hilton

Dawson (Lancaster and

Wyre), Jim Dobbin (Hey-

wood and Middleton),

Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe

and Nantwich), William

Etherington (Sunderland N).

Maria Fyfe (Glasgow Mary-

hill), Dr Ian Gibson (Nor-

wich N). Dr Norman

Godman (Greenock and In-

verelyde), Bernie Grant (Tot-

tenham), David Hinchliffe

(Wakefield), Kelvin Hop-

kins (Luton N), Brian Iddon

(Bolton SE), Dr Lynne Jones

(Birmingham Selly Oak),

Terry Lewis (Worsley), Ken

Livingstone (Brent E), John

McAilion (Dundee E), John

McDonnell (Hayes and Har-

lington), Kevin McNamara

(Hull N), Alice Mahon (Hal-

ifax), Dr John Marek (Wrex-

ham), Bill Michie (Sheffield

Heeley), Gordon Prentice

(Pendle), Brian Sedgemore

(Hackney S and Shoreditch),

Jonathon Shaw (Chatham

and Aylesford). Alan Simp-

son (Nottingham S), Dennis

Llewellyn Smith (Blaneau

Skinner

(Bolsover),

7/LABOUR'S REBELS

Rebels set stage for wider divide over benefit cuts

Labour left-wingers were predicting a new and even bigger revolt over disability benefits last night after 47 MPs voted against plans to cut lone parents' payments. Fron Abroms, Political Correspondent, asked whether this week's set-back would force a change of direction.

Leaders of the campaign against cuts in lone parents' benefits were celebrating what they believed was a victory yesterday.

They believed the threat of an even worse rebellion could prevent similar cuts to disability benefits.

Ken Livingstone, one of the leading fig-ures in the lone-parent revolt, said that 100 MPs supported the campaign but more had expressed sadness at having to support the measure. One member had told him it was "the worst day of my life".

"People get more independent, not less, as parliaments go on." Mr Livingstone said. "It's going to be almost impossible to get through any real cuts in disability ben-

efit. It would he too damaging." Even the most loyal ministers conceded privately that the issue of lone mothers' disciplined," he said. He added that there benefits was badly handled And while there was a very good reason why a decision to were no cahinet rebels, there must have been some with heavy hearts. John Prescott lash: "If I was suspended Peter Mandelson was in Japan, but Robin Cook was given automatically takes my seat on the National permission not to vote despite being in the Executive Committee." country. He was meeting the Spanish foreign minister.

There were warnings of "implacable opposition to any cuts" from a Labour MP, which he described the whips as "goolie-David Winnick, and from the Labour peer crushers". He compounded his offence by Lord Ashley of Stoke.

Lord Ashley, joint chairman of the Parliamentary All-Party Disahlement Group, had goolies I would crush them." Aftersaid the group would meet Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, next week to say it would not back any plans to tax, means-test or time-limit disability benefits, which are believed to be under consideration.

"All the disabled people who have been tact with the whips. in touch with me have been very, very upset about this. Their anxiety and anger can, if ignored or mishandled, make the one parent family row look tame in comparison. Mr Sedgemore and Mr Marek would have We shall be seeking a clear commitment their cases referred to the Parliamentary from Harriet Harman - no cuts," he said. Labour Party.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, said reforms of the benefits system would continue. What we are trying to do is reform a welfare state that is stale. The public and people in the Labour Party will understand that we are doing the right thing," be said in a radio interview.

Downing Street spokesmen added that MPs had been elected on a modernising agenda and they should expect to stick to it. They also predicted disciplinary action against the rebels.

As the scale of Tony Blair's first big rebellion had become clear, whips and party spokesmen had named four offenders who they said would face disciplinary action or even expulsion. At the very least Brian Sedgemore, John Marek, Ken Livingstone and Bob Wareing would face a loss of privileges, they said. But yesterday the rebels continued to speak out against party discipline and dismissed the expulsion rumours as "spin".

Mr Livingstone claimed that when he went into the whips' office yesterday morning to take his punishment there was none to be had. He expected to have a "chat" with the chief whip, Nick Brown, but little more. The whips had seemed "demoralised," he added. "I am very pissed off. I cleared my diary so I could be free to be discipline him would create a left-wing back-

Another of the four, Brian Sedgemore, said he had had a similar experience. He was picked out for writing a letter in saying on Newsnight that his whip, Bridget Prentice, had told him: "If I thought you wards, the chief whip had merely told him: You've been naughty."

Bob Wareing, who was said to be in particular trouble because he was recently suspended for a hreach of the rules on members' interests, said he had had no con-

"Til let them worry about it. I'm just getting on with my joh." he said.

A government source said Mr Wareing.



Rebels with a cause: Alice Mahon (above) and Gordon Prentice and Malcolm Chisholm (below) will pay with their careers

Principled and old join usual suspects

Even the most hardened rebels were surprised by the size of Wednesday night's Commons revolt over lone parent benefits. Fron Abroms, Political Correspondent; asks if the new

Even this week they were being dismissed by party backs as a handful of Trots. But while most of the "usual suspects" were among the 100 or so who failed to support the measure, there were others who had been totally loyal until now.

Labour worms are starting to turn.

newly elected in May this year. Some of those, such as the former GLC deputy leader John McDonnell and both Ann and John MP Bob Cryer, were known to he leftwingers. Others, such as Martin Caton, MP for Gower, and Ian Gibson, MP for Norwich North, had not been picked out as potentially disloyal. Their whips' office files will have been marked.

Some were prepared to sacrifice their careers, including Malcolm Chisholm, who re-Secretary. His colleague Alice Mahon. and Aylesworth with a majority of 2,790.



Of the 47 who voted against, 14 were deeply loyal since being made a PPS this year, was previously known as a left-winger.

There is always a balance to be weighed hetween amhition and principle, of course. Cryer, widow and son of the former Labour . and the list of rebels is heavily peppered with those whose career prospects were slim.

Half were more than 55 years old and therefore regarded as being on a downward slope towards retirement. Then there were the "unlikely lads and lasses", whose slim majorities rendered their prospects of surviving the next election almost non-existent. In that category were Hilton Dawson, the signed as a Scottish Office minister, and Lancaster MP with a majority of just 1,295, Gordon Prentice, a Parliamentary Private and Jonathan Shaw, member for Chatham

Perhaps even more interesting is the list of those who did not vote. Fourteen abstained in person, while another 38 stayed away. The abstainers included George Gal-loway, colourful MP for Glasgow Kelvin, and Julie Morgan, new MP for Cardiff North.

Many previously deeply loyal Blairite new MPs stayed away. Some may have had genuine reasons, but others will have had permission to be absent because they would not vote with the Government. Among the absentees were Oona King, from Bethnal Green and Bow, who was in Bangladesh, and Claire Ward, the 25-year-old from Watford, who was said to have had an important meeting to attend.

Paul Flynn, member for Newport West. said in his recent book, Commons Knowledge, that backbenchers were much more difficult to control than they used to be. After telling the whips he would vote against the Government on Wednesday, be was in the event unable to attend. A large number of MPs were too old, too left-wing, or simply too damn independent to be controlled, he added. "Backbenchers are no longer disciplin-

able in the traditional way, but the party thinks they are. There are lots of groups that just can't be pushed around." he said. New Labour's edifice remained intact this

week, but for those who care to look close-

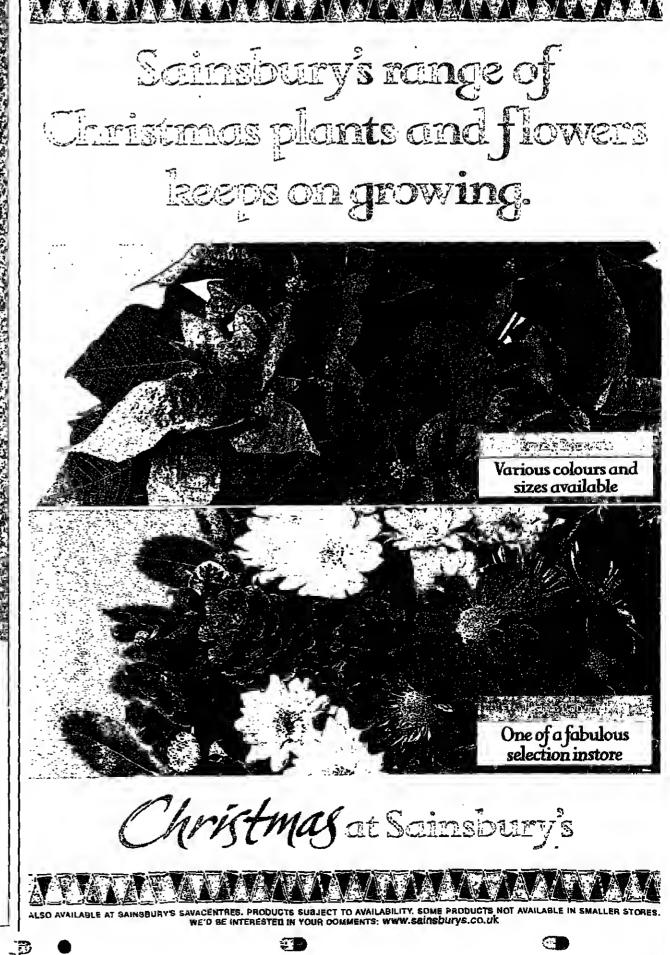
ly, the cracks are beginning to show.

Gwent). Ian Stewart (Eccles). Robert Wareing (Liverpool West Derby), David Winnick (Walsall N). Audrey Wise (Preston), Mike Wood (Batley and Spen). Lawrie Quinn (Scarborough and Whitby) was recorded as voting both for and against the amendment despite baving backed the Government. So the total was

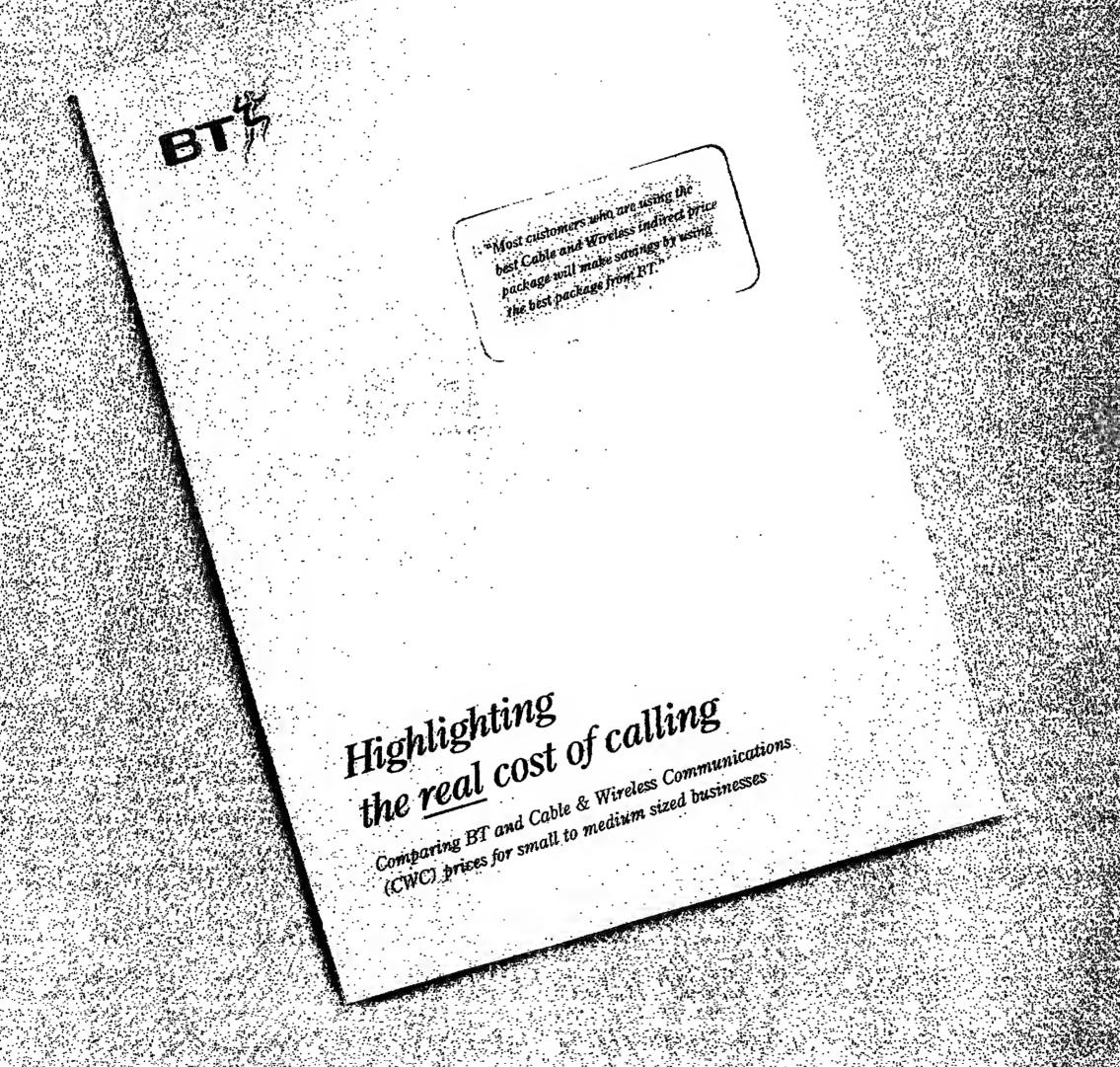
47 and not 48, as reported in

yesterday's Independent.





Get the facts Cable & Wireless wanted to keep under cover



On Monday, the High Court overturned a temporary injunction granted to Cable & Wireless, preventing BT from publishing this brockure.

It reports the results of a study of calls made by 211,000 small and medium-sized BT business customers, which found that: "most customers who are using the best Cable & Wireless indirect price package will make savings using the best package from BT."

The study was independently verified by a leading firm of chartered accountants. BT believes UK businesses have the right to know the real cost of business calls. When you compare like with like, BT is much more competitive than some would have you believe.

To find out more about the real cost of calling, and for a free brochure, Freefone 0800 800 800 or visit us at www.bt.com and judge for yourself.

ornwa

Here was

Non-september 2

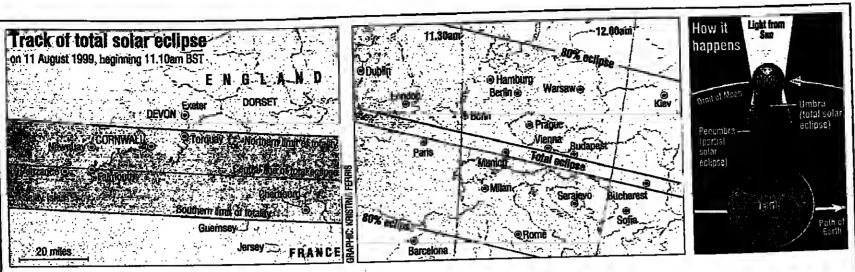
The same of the sa

and the second

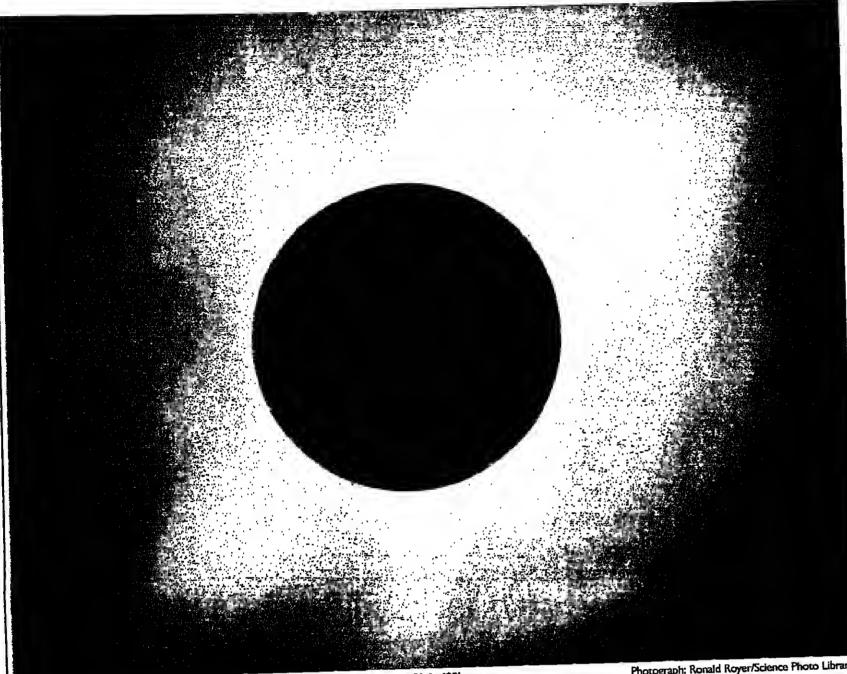
NO WAY PROM

y

حكنا من الاعل



Cornwall frets about darkness at noon



Solar power: The Sun's corona, seen from Mexico during the total eclipse of July 1991

Photograph: Ronald Royer/Science Photo Library

Darkness at noon isn't just a book title for Cornwall County Council. It is what will happen there on II August 1999 - the UK's last total solar eclipse until 2090. And Cornwall is worried. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains why.

In the past few thousand years solar eclipses have often been accompanied by panic. The disappearance of the Sun - as the Moon passes in front of it - has been seen as an omen presaging awful events and divine wrath.

Cornwall County Council, mindful of what can happen, has already begun preparing for the likely effects of August

va lending

businesses

ralls: When

comptillive

and for

1999. While divine wrath is low down in the list of expectations, there are some certain predictions: hotels and campsites will overflow, roads will get blocked and tempers will fray as people travel from all around the world to see the two minutes of "totality" at around 12.10pm on the 11th. And they'll all leave a lot of litter.

More worryingly, many of the sunwatchers may damage their eyesight by trying to view the eclipse without adequate eye protection. Of less concern is that streetlights with sensors may turn on automatically as "darkness" falls.

Yesterday, the council held a summit to try to predict what the human and economic effects of the eclipse will he. "It is clear we must hegin our preparations now," said Steve Winston, the county's emergency planning officer. "By re- as Torbay. However, the "totality", in

hearsing potential problems we will ensure maximum safety for everyone, and the maximum benefits for Cornwall."

The council has applied for £50,000 in European funding to help it deal with the influx. The forecast is that up to a million people will crowd into the county. Hotels near Land's End have been booked up for some years by groups who tour the world to observe eclipses. Some local gossip has suggested that room rates for those dates are moving rapidly skywards.

The event will be the only total eclipse visible in Britain in most of our lifetimes. The last was in northern England in 1927; the next will affect London in 2090. In 1999, any part of Cornwall south of a line between Camelford and Launceston will have a partial eclipse, as will Devon as far

which only the sun's fiery corona can be seen, will he best seen in west Corowall. from Penzance to Falmouth.

Traffic snarl-ups are likely to be a major problem. In 1991, Mexico's preparations for an eclipse included a ban on traffic movements for half an hour, enforced by 1,000 police and 10 helicopters. Cornwall has more road miles than any other county, and many of them are narrow and easily blocked. That in itself could pose a problem for the emergency services.

Still, the logistical problems posed by modern-day eclipses are very different in character from those of the past. In 1560, the announcement in France of a forthcoming eclipse led to widespread panic as people thought it meant an imminent day of divine reckoning and hegan fighting for a place in the queue for the confessional.

Now the test for **Kyoto resolution**

Seen in the harsh light of dawn, what did more than a week of round-the-clock negotiation in Kyoto achieve? Nicholas Schoon, environment correspondent, examines the brave new world created by the new anti-global warming treaty.

Things will never be the same again ... perhaps. In Kyoto the nations of the world agreed on a decisive step to hegin tackling the threat of man-made climate change. But it will take about six years before you can judge whether nearly 30 developed nations - which agreed to cut their annual output of six key global-warming gases - are serious about the new Kyoto protocol.

First, they will have to sign and ratify the treaty to make it legally binding - and there are major doubts about whether the higgest polluter, the US, with its anti-Kyoto majority of politicians in Congress, will.

Secondly, their governments will have to make a prompt start on implementing the policies needed to stop emissions of these gases rising. They have a few years to change the upward trend into a decline in order to comply with the provisions of the new United Nations treaty.

Overall, it means a 5.2 per cent cut in annual emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gases from the developed world by 2012, compared with a 1990 baseline. The European Union has agreed to an 8 per cent cut, the US to 7 per cent and Japan to 6 per cent. Although EU nations felt strongly that the US and Japan should cut emissions with the same flat rate, the fact that they took the issue most seriously and called for a deeper cut than any other group of countries has ended up with them being allocated the largest reduction.

As for Japan, its negotiators argued remorselessly and successfully in Kyoto that the nation hosting the treaty conference was a special case. Japan uses fossil fuels with trade their quotas through a free market.

high efficiency because it has virtually none of its own - they all have to he imported. As a result, it produces relatively few of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with these fuels considering its huge productivity and wealth. Under the final agreement, Russia has to stabilise its emissions. Australia, Iceland, and Norway are allowed to increase their global-warming pollution by 2012; they all pleaded successfully that they were special cases.

Environmentalists are, discreetly, rather pleased by the final agreement. Given how far the major industrialised nations were apart at the start of the conference, the depths of cuts agreed is slightly more than they were guessing at its start.

It was the Americans who caved in most of all, hut there is a risk the Republicandominated Congress will refuse to ratify the treaty. Jeremy Leggett, a former campaigner with Greenpeace who now promotes solar power, said: "I'm quite encouraged. Now we'll see whether this treaty starts to transform the energy industry." He said it sent a clear signal to hig oil companies that their sales of polluting fossil fuels would he capped in the developed world, and encouraged them to move into renewable energy sources. In the long run, the developing countries will have to he hrought into the treaty if it is to be effective in slowing the rate of climate change caused by pollution,

The most rational way of dealing with the problem seems to be the "contraction and convergence" approach advocated by the London-based Glohal Commons institute. Under its scenario, every inhabitant of the planet would he allocated the same quantity of greenhouse gases to emit, divided out of a total which kept climate change within tolerable limits.

This would give every country, whatever its wealth. a certain quota of pollution. Developed countries have more than their fair share of this quota, while many developing nations still have less. The institute says all countries should he able to

Labour faces rethink on greenhouse-gas curbs

business grumblings back home. Labour's stance on greenhouse ses may have to be revised in the cold light of day. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains.

The UK government's role in the European Union's commitment to reduce its greenhouse-gas outputs by 8 per cent will be a tough one on three fronts.

First, Labour will have to decide how any cuts are implemented. The obvious suggestion - that all sectors, such as domestic, industrial and transport - should cut outputs of the six named gases equally, will meet opposition from groups like the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). They think the initial hurden should fall on easier targets for improvement, such as the domestic sector.

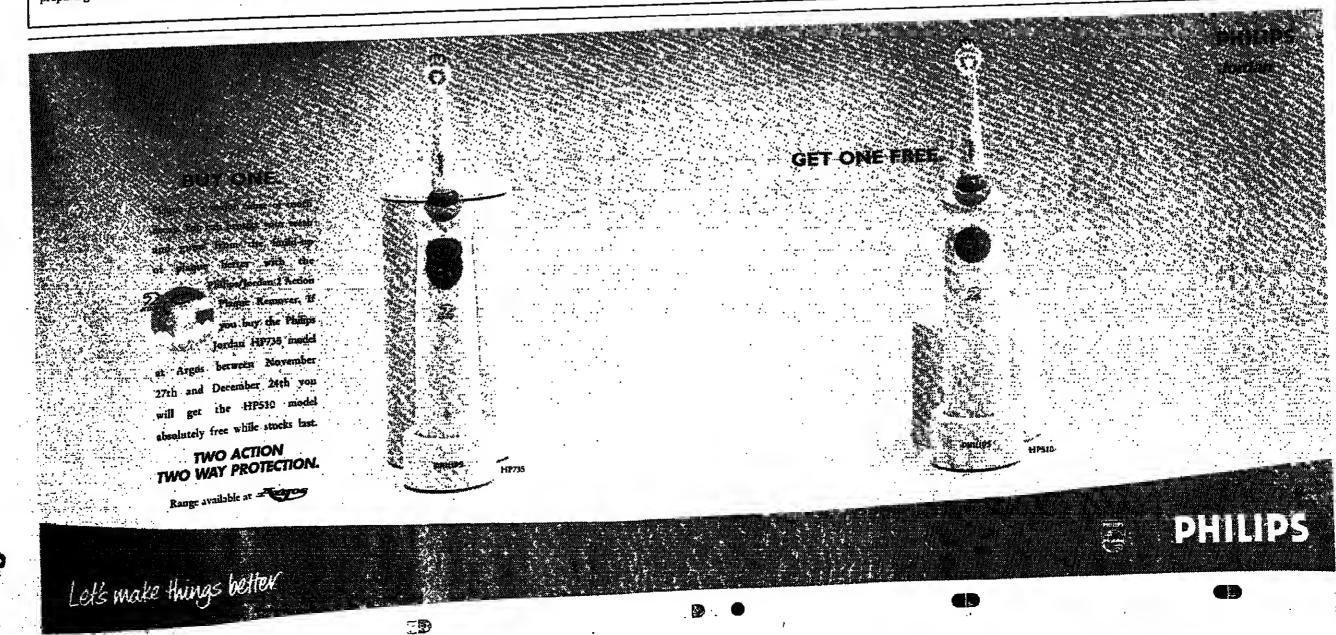
Secondly, the exact allocation of cuts has to be parcelled out among EU members, and under the procedure known as "hurden sharing", in which richer countries within the union have to shoulder larger cuts. the UK's share of reduction emissions may be closer to 10 per cent, rather than 8 per cent. This will be a tough negotiating issue

Political agreement in Kyoto - but which Britain will oversee during its presidency of the EU next year. It has already been taking a close interest, as Luxembourg, the current EU president, recognised carly on that it would not have the negotiating resources to tackle Kyoto on its own. and called on Britain for assistance.

Thirdly, the Labour Party manifesto commits the UK to a 20 per cent cut in carbon-dioxide emissions. Post-Kyoto, this seems excessive. Carbon dioxide is the least "warming" of the "basket" of six gases (carhon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride) involved in the agreement. There seems little point in making high-profile commitments to major cuts in a gas if we might meet - or even exceed our targets by other means.

It remains to he seen whether Labour will quietly drop this target, or brandish it

as an example to be achieved. But some of the early lobbying will almost certainly come from the husiness sector, which is keen to escape any early strictures on its output. Michael Roberts, of the CBI, suggested yesterday that the Government should start by "plucking the low-lying fruit", and reduce energy consumption in the domestic, rather than industrial sector.



STORES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

today at

122 stores

Nationwide

Our expert staff are specially trained

in all communication products and will be happy to help you make the

choice that's right for you.

If you find exactly the same package cheaper locally within 7 days, we will

refund the difference.

all our products to give you complete peace of mind for up to 5 years.

we quarentee to exchange any gift you purchase from The Link for an item of equa

our sales receipt. This scheme is valid for oil

urchases made between 2nd November and 4th December 1997 inclusive. The exchange

his is in addition to your statutory right

FREEPHONE

0500 222 666

For your nearest store

or to order direct

BRITAIN'S

BIGGEST RANGE OF MOBILE PHONES IN-STORE

PLUS

THE LINK

PRICE PROMISE

MASTERCARE

COVERPLAN

CHRISTMAS GIFT

EXCHANGE

THE BIGGEST

Government lawyers, the police and harristers are all criticised today in a report on the quality of the prosecution service.

The National Audit Office attacks barristers for receiving then returning prosecution cases, causing widespread delays. The report says this happens in three-quarters of cases, and that in a third of these the prosecutions are then handled by barristers described as "of inappropriate quality".

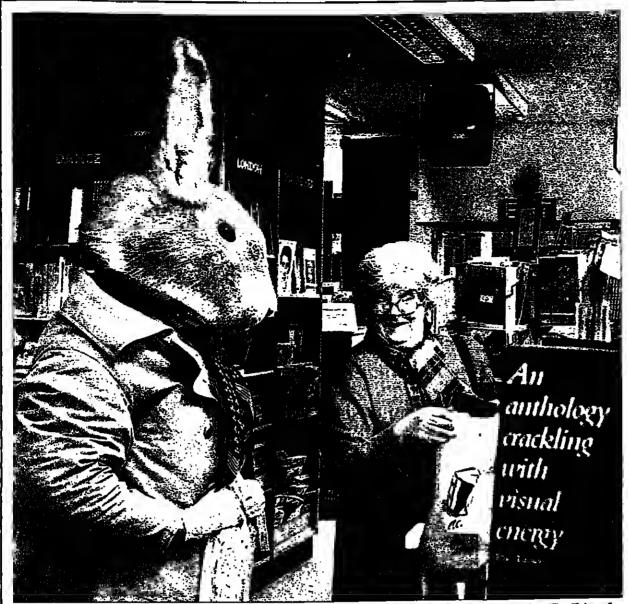
Victims of crime are not being involved in the prosecution of their attackers, especially in cases where charges arc dropped, according to the Government watchdog

It criticises the Crown Prosecution Service for not giving full enough explanations to police to pass on to victims where they decide not to prosecute. Charges do not proceed in 12 per cent of cases, a slight improvement on recent years.

The report says only one third of police files meet both time and quality guidelines.

The NAO attacks the lack of independence of the CPS Inspectorate and the delays and ir cost in bringing in a new computerised scheme to cnable it to keep track of cases. The project, originally expected to cost £8m. will now cost £16m.

> Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent



Peter Rabbit visiting the bookshop at the Royal Festival Hall, where the Royal Ballet is performing The Tales of Beatrix Potter from 23 December to 17 January. Alastair Marriott dances Peter Rabbit Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Mystery of BA jet and Russian fighters in near miss

downwards.

of each other.

There are at least three ex-

planations. One, that some

equipment was faulty on the

Russian tanker craft. It was

the only jet in two-way com-

munication with air traffic con-

trollers. Two, the Russian pilots

British air safety investigators have a reputation of being among the finest in the world. However, says Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, in a report issued yesterday they have failed to explain why two Russian fighter aircraft and their refuelling plane narrowly missed crashing into a British Airways jet carrying IIO passengers this summer.

BA's Boeing 737 was heading towards Gatwick when it had to take avoiding action to miss three Russian military jets which had descended lower than their instructed course.

The BA aircraft - en route from Aberdeen - had to take a steeper than normal left turn and passed half a mile from the Russian aircraft. The incident occurred last July in clear skies over Reading in Berkshire.

The Russian formation team

Two men at once

- consisting of two Sukhoi SU an air show.
30s and the Ilyushin IL 76 Another,

ory, would be that the military tanker aircraft - had been depilots would not answer quesscending from 35,000ft on its aptions. This is unlikely as the proach to RAF Fairford in Russian crew did co-operate Gloucestershire from Kalinenough to produce an accident inggrad. When at 18,000ft, it started to drift, inexplicably report. The Air Accidents Investi-

gation Branch said in its report Then at 16,000ft, it started that procedures for dealing to descend again - despite bewith military formation flights ing told to bold its position - and in civil air space should now be almost caused a catastrophe. tightened. Only the quick reactions of the

The Department of Envi-ronment, Transport and the controllers and the BA crew averted the disaster which saw Regions refused to help. David the aircraft come within 600ft Stewart, a spokesman, said: "We are not going to ask any in-The BA captain filed an respectors any questions on your port stating he estimated the behalf. If it is not in the report, miss distance" as about 400ft we are not going to help." vertically and 800m borizontally.

This attitude is unlikely to change. Safety agencies and regulatory bodies in Britain do not publish the evidence they receive because officials claim that otherwise their decisions could be questioned. This still leaves many unanswered questions in the case of the BA jet and the Russian flying team.

misunderstood an instruction in English. The report says the air traffic controllers had had difficulty communicating with the What can be said is hundreds Russian aircraft, which were fly- of lives were put in peril and the ing in formation on their way to reason why is unknown.

The Link

TOUCH



Eı

Sı

Er.

Eı

tir

NEW

8588 272 666

BT # EasyReach

PHILIPS ALPHA TEXT PAGER

Stores up to 20 messages

 Messages arrive with time/date stamp Was £79.99 £69.99

FREE TOP 40 CD

· · PHILIPS

BTH EasyReach

Top mounted 12 digit displar
 Stores up to 12 messages or

PHILIPS UNO

NUMERIC PAGER

BTh EasyReach **NEC 103 NUMERIC PAGER**

BTH EasyReach MOTOROLA MEMO EXPRESS TEXT PAGER One line backlit display
 Stores up to 15 messag

MINTER AT BPM

BT F EasyReach

MOTOROLA CELLO TEXT PAGER One line scrolling mess Stores up to 15 messa

UNDER **PACKAGE INCLUDES:** 18 MONTHS LINE RENTALT

PLUS • Connection Fee Motorola D170 Digital Mobile Phone

• £90 of Free Calls

PACKAGE PRICE

nyment by normal monitily charge. 12 x £1750 + £35 for connection + £9,99 for phane = £254,99, fincludes standard 12 monitos line n or details, \$10 order Grect call 0500 222,666 7 days a week, Delivery charges from £3,25, Part of The Link Stores Limited, Reg no. 33 Herts, HP2 7TG. Connection to mobile phones is subject to status. A deposit may be required. Ask in-store for details.

DAILY POEM

By Norman MacCaig

In the Culag Bar a fiddler is playing fast-rippling tunes with easy

How do I know? I'm in Edinburgh.

On the pier, sun-scorched tourists hang their bellies over improbable shorts.

How do I know? I'm in Edinburgh.

In the Veyatie burn a man hooks a trout. It starts rantpaging.

And I'm in Edinburgh.

Or so I say. How easy to be

One smiling and drinking coffee in Learnington Terrace, Edinburgh.

The other cutting the pack of memories and turning up ace after ace after ace.

This poem completes our selection from the Edinburgh poet Norman MacCaig, who was born in the city in 1910 and died there in 1996. They come from his Selected Poems, edited by Dou-

glas Dunn and recently published by Chatto & Windus (£8.99).

Scout leader abused boys

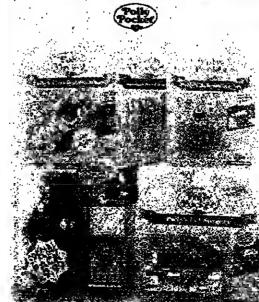
A former Scout leader and care worker was yesterday convicted of a string serious sexual offences against young boys after detectives uncovered a catalogue of systematic abuse. stretching over 10 years.

David Stanley, 49, of Telford, Shropshire, was found guilty on six counts of buggery, and two counts of attempted buggery against Scouts and boys in his care.

He was also convicted at Worcesler Crown Court on eight counts of indecent assault and one of possessing indecent photographs with a view to distributing them on the Internet. Stanley had denied all sexual assault charges, but pleaded guilty to the possession of porcographic pictures which he traded on the Internet. The jury acquitted Stanley on two counts of buggery and six of indecent assault. Three further counts of indecent assault were left on file. One charge of attempted buggery was discharged. He was cleared on one count of buggery.

We've got ONE MILLIO

DUNDS worth of Models, Hobbies, Toys & Games to give away this Christmas



Pockeť

included in this Pally Pocket Party Pack are 5 varying toys from the Polly Pocket range. Total normal separate selling price £19.99

Beatties

Hundreds of great money saving offers at every store

Models Hobbies Toys Games

hard fi Terror Valle Security of Line

Washes and dries Issie and bygienic Quick and casy to Doubles as a vacus

for more details phor

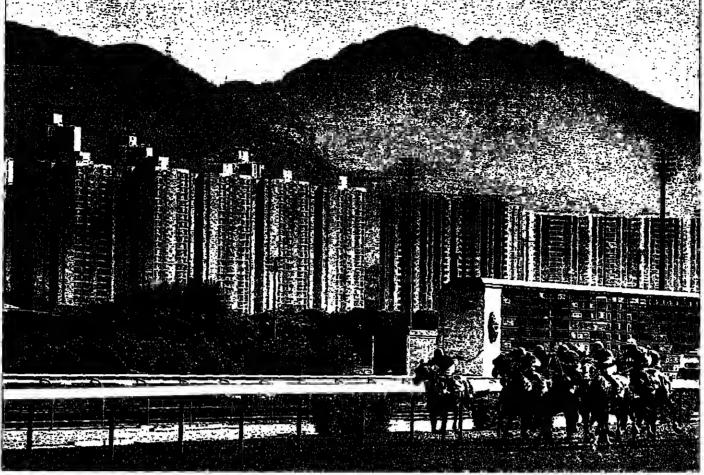
Curry:

حكمًا من الاجل

11/HONG KONG

Courses for horses on Cook's China tour





Racing certainty: The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, whose schedule for a trip to China is revolving around his desire to visit Hong Kong's Happy Valley race track (above)

problem for his officials as they plan his first visit to the Chinese mainland as Foreign Secretary. Scout leader They have been told that, on the Hong Kong abused boys leg of the trip, their boss - a distinguished horserace tipster - must have his night at the Happy Valley race track, even if it means juggling his China schedule around the race meetings, Stephen Vines in Hong Kong and Teresa Poole in

Peking report.

Robin Cook has set a

The logistics have not been easy, because the Hong Kong races only occur on Wednesdays

other, rather more serious maiters of protocol which must take priority. But Mr Cook is a frustrated race-goer. When he came to Hong Kong for the handover to Chinese rule on 1 July, the horse-racing season had finished. On a visit in May 1996, the season was on but Mr Cook had to get back to London to attend to urgent parliamentary business. So he is leaving little to chance for this third official visit.

The Foreign Secretary will therefore be in Hong Kong on Wednesday, 21 January to start his official meetings in the former colony. And that evening he will be sitting in one of the luxury boxes at the newly refurbished Happy Valley racecourse. There is little flexibility with the date, because Mr Cook's trip to China and Hong

to clash with the previous garet Beckett, President of the Board of Trade,

Any further delay, and he will run into the following week's Chinese New Year holiday, when China effectively shuts down. He also has to fit in with the travel plans of his counterpart, Qian Qichen, who is due back from a trip to Africa just before Mr Cook's China vis-

Planning meetings are taking place to try to find a way of accommodating the demands of horse racing and Sino-British

the British that the problem could be solved if Mr Cook arrived first in Guangzhou (Canton), moving from there to Hong Kong, and then to Peking Kong has to take place in the for a day of meetings on Thurs-

To Chinese eyes, this would week's visit to Peking of Mar- be a big break with established diplomatic protocol, which demands that a visiting foreign secretary should make Peking the first stop on the mainland.

Nevertheless, a request was made to the Chinese for this schedule. Before the Chinese replied,

the logistical problems of organising this itinerary began to worry UK officials, It would have meant Mr

Cook leaving the Happy Valley race track just before the last race nn 21 January. He would then have been whisked to the airport and flown by a govern-At first it was suggested by ment VC-10 to Peking, arriving early on Thursday, where Chinese protocol officials would have had to turn out in the middle of the night at the airport to meet him.

Nevertheless, this was still

the lure of the turf. Mr Cook has week, but wiser counsel seems to have prevailed. The night at serious business to transact, the races is still safe but the The main purpose of the visit Guangzhou stop of the visit has is to huild on the warming rebeen dropped, despite the origlations between London and inal notion that it was useful for Peking since the Hong Kong handover. He will also lay the Mr Cook to see somewhere in mainland China other than ground for the planned Tony Blair trip later this year. Mr Peking. The British side hopes Mr Qian will be available slight-Blair met President Jiang ly earlier that week, so Mr Zemin in Hong Kong the night Cook will arrive first in Peking of the handover, with much banand fly to Hong Kong by ter from the Chinese side about the youth of the new British Wednesday, and back to Lon-

don. He will not get the chance

to see a hit more of China - but

One obvious benefit of the

Cook will be able - if he wish-

es - to make use of normal

scheduled flights, rather then

needing his own plane for a latenight Hong Knng-Peking flight.

for the races.

Mr Cook's love of horse-racwill get to Hong Kong in time ing might also make for some friendly exchanges. Chinese officials love going

Prime Minister.

revised timetable is that Mr to the races in Hong Kong, Larry Yung, the son of the Chinese vice-president Rong Yiren, is a senior steward of what used to be called the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club - now simply Although the planning of the known as the Hong Kong Jock-

Lassitude rules as economy sinks

When Britain packed its bags and left Hong Kong, the general expectation was that the post-colonial regime would be preoccupied by political problems. Instead, it is becoming overwhelmed by an economic crisis. But, as Stephen Vines reports, the people who run the government are showing few signs of recognising the gravity of the situation.

A sharp recession is already starting to take its toll on Hong Kong, but in government circles there is a pervasive sense of smug complacency.

An opinion poll conducted last week showed a sharp dip in public confidence in the economy. Last summer more than 80 per cent of those polled were expressing confidence. The recent poll showed that 60 per cent still felt able to remain optimistic. This is a low figure by Hong Kong standards, because people here tend to he resolutely bullish.

The reasons for pessimism are not hard to find, although official statistics have yet to refleet the problems. Carrie Lee, who runs a stationery business, said: "We just sit around at the moment, waiting for the phone to ring. Everyone is being very careful; they don't even want to spend money on paper." The owner year. of a hitherto successful graphic-design business said he had cut staff and moved the rest of the husiness into one floor. He used to occupy three, "After October husiness just dried up; our cash flow disappeared. I've never seen it

Even in the financial secwere the order of the day, laylarge investment house has Kong's already high prices.

laid off a third of its staff. A slump in tourism, one of Hone Kong's biggest currency earners, is producing redundancies in botels and restaurants. The Japanese owned Yaohan department-store chain, one of the biggest in the territory, has gone into liquidation, throwing 1,000 people out of work.

A newspaper poll yesterday showed 75 per cent of employees surveyed feared they would lose their jobs. Interest rates are rising to historically high levels as a result of what is increasingly looking like a panicky reaction by the monetary authorities to counter speculation against the local currency. This is squeezing the business sector and causing pain for holders of modest home loans.

The property market has responded rapidly to the interest-rate rise, with transactions practically grinding to a halt and prices plunging by as much as a third, A mediumsized estate-agent chain went into liquidation.

In these circumstances the administration might have been expected to show some appreciation of the problem.

But Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive, keeps reiterating that "everything is

Sir Donald Tsang, his financial secretary, recently predicted "the dust might settle down by Christmas". He refuses to admit that the econnmy is in decline and sticks to his forecast of 5.5 per cent growth for the coming

This is treated with incredulity by some local coonomists. The conservative Hang Seng Bank, for example, is predicting growth of no more than 4 per cent. Sir Donald's target could be met only by an infusion of Keynesian-style government intervention, which whuld probably mean a mastor, where humper bonuses sive public-housing constructinn splurge, which would lead offs are gathering pace: one to high inflation, raising Hong

How to wash hard floors at 150 mph. The new VAX Sahara is a revolution in hard floor cleaning.

It washes and dries hard floors in one simple action.

Using VAX's unique Hydrodry technology™ the Sahara works by scrubbing the floor using a continuous supply of clean solution and sucking the dirty solution back into the machine at an incredible 150 mph.

Leaving the floor spotlessly clean and instantly dry.

- Washes and dries instantly
- Safe and hygienic
- Quick and easy to use
- Doubles as a vacuum cleaner



For more details phone VAX Careline free on 0500 112 113.

Come and see Sahara at

Currys

POWERHOUSE

and other good electrical retailers.

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' - What Mortgage Magazine.



arrangement fees, valuation fees, mortgage indemnity fees, early redemption penalties.

wonder other mortgage lenders are worried.

* Mortgage example of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments).

| Lenger | (Variable) (after tax relief) | with Direct Line | (gross) |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| WOOLWICH | 9.3% £630.40 | £61.93 | £198,687 |
| HALIFAX | 9.0% £617.01 | £48.54 | £195,521 |
| ALLIANCE & LEICEST | R 9.0% £617.01 | £48.54 | £195,372 |
| DIRECT LINE | 7.8% £568.47 | | £178,258 |
| | | | |

APRs based on Standard Variable Rate Repayment mortgages, correct at 8th December 1997. Source Moneyfacts: MIRAS has been calculated under current tax legislation which may after.

- They should be, because not one of these mortgage lenders can compete with Direct Line.
- As the table shows our variable rate mortgage could save you around £50* per month.
- No legal fees if you transfer your mortgage without moving house. We refind your valuation costs^{††}.

LONDON

- No arrangement, mortgage indemnity or early redemption fees.
- You can horrow up to 90% of the value of your home.
- We guarantee to save you 20% fff on your existing buildings insurance.
- No reason to call anyone else then when you can call Direct Line.

0161 831 9099 0181 649 9099



0141 221 9099

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. INDI67 Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5\$H www.direcdine.co.uk

MANCHESTER

You must be aged 18 to 62. Subject to status. Security required. Written quotations on request. Legal fees paid if mortgage of existing home is transferred using Direct Line solicitors package. If own solicitor used and the fees amount to more than 2300, Olrect Line will pay the excess up to a maximum of £200. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. HStandard valuation fee will be refunded when the mortgage is set up. Some mortgages may require payment of a fee to the existing lender when being transferred. If The guaranteed insurance spring only applies if your current insurance is arran Direct Line and the red phone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance pic, used with its permission.
YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Hutu slaughter of 200 Tutsis reopens Rwanda's wounds

Hutu rebels in Rwanda appear to be stepping up their attacks on Tutsi survivors of the 1994 genocide. Brennan Linsley of **Associated Press reports from** Kigali on the latest atrocity.

Suspected Huiu rebels attacked a camp for Tutsi refugees in north-western Rwanda yesterday, killing as many as 200 people.

The attackers raided about 100 tents in the camp, which houses several thousand refugees from the Masisi area in neighbouring Congo, according to Paula Ghedini, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The

Rwandan military put the death toll at 230. The marauders used hand grenades, machetes and guns during the 15-minute, early morning raid, said Colonel Kayumba Nyamwasa, a regional commander of Rwanda's Tutsi-led army.

Col Kayumba said soldiers had been unable to repet the attackers, who fled into Congo after the slaughter. The UNHCR requested medical supplies for about 200 wounded being treated at the hospital in Gisenyi, about 100 km north-west of the

camp since August, when more than 100 refugees were killed during a raid hlamed on Hutu rebels.

The refugees had fled the Masisi region in mid-1996 to escape attacks by Hutu rebels, who were then based at the refugee camps in eastern Zaire, since renamed Congo.

Authorities say the rebels, responsible for the deaths of 500,000 minority Tutsis in Rwanda's 1994 Hutu genocide, have mixed with more than 1 million Hutu civilians who returned to Rwanda late last year.

Rwanda's Tutsi-led government blames the rebels for a surge in violence in the north-western corner of Rwanda. Barely a week passes without a rebel ambush or an

Yesterday's attack coincided with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's one-day visit to Kigali, where she met President Pasteur Bizimungu and Vice Presi-

Ms Albright said: "There is clearly room for improvement in the human rights record for Rwanda. Given the history of the genocide ... we understand how difficult it must be for them. A lot has been done already [to improve human rights] but they

have a long way to go."

Ms Albright said the US was determined to help Rwanda come to terms with the af-



Insect appeal: A popular children's pet in Queensland, Australia, is the world's biggest cockroach, Macropane Photograph: Jeff Wright/Reuters

Chileans run away from election duty

Chileans hid in bushes, climbed up poles, locked themselves in bathrooms, feigned illoesses and alleged they could not read or write to avoid being pressed into electoral inspection duties yesterday.

t

The mid-term legislative election was delayed in many of the 28,523 polling stations as au-thorities failed to find enough citizens willing to serve as inspectors. Officials said the difficulties were especially felt in Santiago, where media reported that people hid from soldiers guarding the polling stations.

Carlos Figueroa, the interior minister, who organised the election, was unable to cast his ballot because his polling station lacked the required number of inspectors.

Figueroa told reporters that electoral authorities would have to enforce a law which stipulates that the first three citizens who show up to vote must be appointed as inspectors, unless they have a valid reason not to.

Voting is mandatory for Chile's 8.6 million registered voters. Polisters, however, have forecast that one-third of the electorate could cast void ballots or not even bother to vote. - Reuters, Santiago

Netanyahu's wife comes under fresh press attack

The wife of Beojamin Ne- Sara Netanyahu kept an office tanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was thrust into the eye of another storm in Israel yesterday over a newspaper report which alleged that she had abused her position and tormented subordinates.

Mr Netanyahu's office issued a blanket denial of the claims made about his 39-year-old wife Sara by Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's best-selling daily. A spokesman said: "We doo't react to such gossip." The report, which dominated radio chat shows for bours, was the latest salvo against the first lady.

tributed to unnamed officials and witnesses, was a claim that

in the prime ministry building. two secretaries and a media ad-

viser, at the taxpayers' expense. The newspaper also alleged that she had fired three nannies and two secretaries since Mr Netaoyahu took office 18 months ago, thrown shoes at a housekeeper because they weren't polished properly and forced erstwhile friends to ad-

dress her as "Mrs Netanyahu". Mr Netanyahu, who put his family in the spotlight during an American-style election campaign last year, has portrayed Sara, his third wife, as the vic-Among the allegations, at- tim of a hostile press and a noholds-barred opposition.

US to tackle Floods kill 81 in Somalia computer bug

Floods in Somalia have killed 81 more people, bringing the death toll to almost 1.700 since rain began to deluge eastern and southern Somalia in late September,

aid agencies said yesterday. More than 230,000 people have been displaced and almost 30,000 livestock are reported killed, according to a statement by the Nairohi-based So-

malia Aid Co-ordination Body

(SACB). Aid officials, who collate daily casualty figures, say floodrelated diseases such as malaria account for an increasing

The Clinton administration intends to order more than a dozen federal agencies to redirect hundreds of millions of dollars in their technology budgets to fix the year 2000 computer problem, an administration of-

ficial said yesterday. Many old programs that recognise dates in two-digit formats - "97" for 1997 - will run awry as the century turns. unable to distinguish 2000 from 1900. The government may spend up to \$4bn (£2.5bn) to avert widespread government - AP. Washington





حكتا من الاعل

13/EU SUMMI

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 1997

Chileans run away from election duty

Cherry-picking Europe expands eastward



Joining the club: Citizens of Tallinn, Estonia, and nine other former Soviet bloc countries will soon be welcomed to the European Union fold

Photograph: K Gillham

European Union leaders meet in Luxembourg today to start the process of admitting millions of central and East Europeans to the bloc. But divisions over monetary union, Turkey, and a row about the money to pay for expansion could momentous occasion in the post-Cold War era. reports Katherine Butler.

The people of 10 former Sovietbloc countries as well as the Turks and Cypriots are clamouring to be admitted to the most powerful economic club in

the world. By the time they leave Luxembourg tomorrow evening,

EU leaders baving grappled

first with a dispute over Britain's exclusion from the new single currency club, are expected to have agreed an enlargement strategy which picks the cherries off the east European tree. They will invite the Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Slovenians and Estonians, as well as the Cypnots, all of whom have been judged ready to enter negotiations on 31 March.

After years of wrangling new dividing lines in Europe if they start with just a chosen few, the selective approach appears to have won out. The Swedes and Danes are set to drop demands that all three Baltic states be brought in to the bloc at the same pace.

But the deal will be packaged in such a way as to mollify the disappointed East Europeans, allowing them to claim that they are not being shut behind what the Foreign Secretary

Rohin Cook calls a Velvet Cur-

tain. The Latvians, Lithuanians, Slovaks, Bulgarians and Romanians will be officially declared candidates and admitted in March alongside the frontrunners to a "screening" procedure under which their economies will be vetted against the European "acquis" - the 90,000 pages of single market legislation which all applicants have to take on board.

In theory any of them will be "European" countries on such tions as soon as they make the grade. But a longstanding dilemma over Turkey, which first applied to join the EU in 1963, could still hijack the summit. Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis has threatened to veto plans to invite Turkey to a standing "European Conference" originally conceived as a grand launch of the enlargement process, for all appli-

by the Turkish prime minister earlier this week, will be among cants. It will be opened by the those leaders who will insist that Queen in London in Fehruary. Turkey be given equal billing as Turkey's inclusion was dea potential EU member. Britain

governments.

of Turkish membership because

of the country's relative poverty,

its size and religious make-up.

other leaders may have to agree

that the standing conference will

seek to tighten links between all

drug trafficking and crime hut

make no reference whatsoever

to EU enlargement, That for-

mula would however rob the

conference of any meaning

since the Council of Europe al-

ready exists to promote loose

links between 40 European

Tony Blair, who was lobbied

To appease Athens, the

considers it essential to keep signed to give Ankara the impression it, too, was part of the alive membership hopes as a way of boosting pro-Western re-"European family" - even though few member states are formists and dampening the comfortable about the prospect rise of Islamic fundamentalism.

For Ankara, a declaration from the summit of Turkey's eligibility as an official "candidate" on the same criteria as other applicants would be a victory. But the Greeks hold a veto on this and are seeking to add a further

Potentially even more explusive to the whole enlargement plan is its impact on the EU's hugely expensive farm and regional aid policies. Spain, the higgest beneficiary of grant aid from the bloc's structural funds, fears that the admission of countries where telephones are still a luxury will squeeze the existing poorer regions. The Spanish reject the proposal that a tight hudget ceiling to cover expenditure

Luxembourg conclusions. But Germany, despite wanting to see its eastern neighbours admitted as soon as possible, is adamant there will be no extra money beyond what is generated by a projected EU growth

rate of 2.5 per cent. The Germans, who pay most of the EU's bills, have already demanded a rebate on their own budget contributions and are resisting any radical reforms to the even though enlargement would double the number of

farmers dependent on it. The French, fearing that enlargement will push the EU's cumbersome decision making machinery into paralysis, want a pledge from the summit that internal reforms will be carried out hefore any new members are admitted. This would involve a hugely controversial shake-up to voting strengths and national representation in the up to 2006 be written into the European Commission.

US to tackle computer ou

vile comes

ress attack



WPA customers live very happily with their health insurance. Don't take our word... take theirs. Because, as a recent poli proved. we are more recommended by customers than any other major health insurer.

Ask one yourself. Then ask us. We have all the answers you want on how to choose the health insurance with the benefits you're looking for at your kind of price.

Call free of charge and obligation.



0500 41 42 43

Western Provident Association Between 8am - 6pm weekdays quoring IN 12D

People are happy with WPA

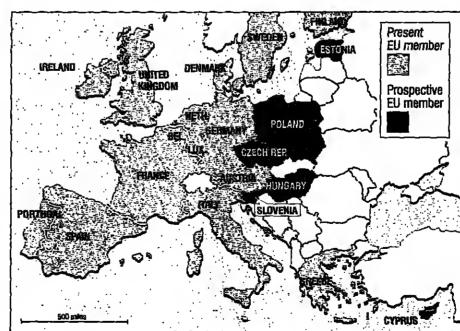






25 years.

Bigger and bigger: How the class of '51 made it to 15



First, there were six. The origwhen Greece, newly liberated inal European Coal and Steel from military rule, was admit-Community treaty in 1951 was ted, the first in a southwards signed by Belgium, West Germany, France, Italy, Luxem-Spain and Portugal joined bourg and the Netherlands. in 1986, taking the total to

The same countries signed twelve. up in 1957 to the Treaties of Two became one in 1990. Rome, which established the when West Germany unified with East Germany, adding a European Economic Community, the forerunner of today's whole new direction of move-European Union. ment: Fast

Then there were nine. After Fifteen is the current total, after Austria, Finland and Sweprotracted negotiations. Denden joined in 1995, taking the mark. Ireland and the United EU to the borders of Russia and Kingdom became members in the Arctic Circle. 1973, taking the EC outside its The next step is to deal with historic continental heartland -

tive East European applicants and heginning, some would ar-- Poland, the Czech Republic. gue, all the problems of the last Hungary, Slovenia and Estema Nine became ten in 1981.

That would take it to twenty-one members by the beginning of the next century. But there are six other ap-

plicants, which are not deemed ready yet to begin membership negotiations.

members.

Five are from Central and Eastern Europe - Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia and Lithuania. The sixth is Turkey, which is a more distant prospect for membership. That would take membership to twentyseven. Other past applicants include Norway, which rejected the idea in a referendum, Malta, which has also cooled to the idea, Morocco and Switzerland. If all the epplicants were to join, the EU would have 30



Please note items marked + have previously been on sale at the same price.

Prices only valid in the UK.

Please note some items are shown larger than actual size.

PROM CODE 61326

This voucher is not redeemable for cash and may not be used to purchase Argos gifl vouchers. Only one voucher may he used at ony one lime and cannol he used to conjunction with any other money off youcher. This youcher is only valid against one jewellory transaction over £50. This offer does not apply in walches or clocks. This venctor is valid in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.



FREE MONTHS

FREE LINE RE

FREE ACCESSON

Defence ministry aided neo-Nazi 'Aryan' project

The German government is under fire over the army's links to neo-Nazis. Imre Karacs reports from Bonn on the latest revelations.

The German Defence Minister was yesterday accused of misleading parliament over army donations to a neo-Nazi led organisation which seeks to repopulate East Prussia with

On Wednesday Volker Rühe fence committee that his ministry had been unaware that the heneficiary of its largesse had heen the convicted neo-Nazi terrorist Manfred Roedel, But according to an investigative report aired on national television last night, Roeder's name appeared on the begging letters sent to the ministry.

Roeder, one of the bestknown neo-Nazis in Germany, a multitude of crimes, including arson at a refugee home which claimed the lives of two Vietnamese immigrants. According

to the television report, he had Roeder had somehow duped his first approached the defence ministry in 1993, three years after his release from jail.

Roeder wanted help for his organisation - a registered charity - to conduct "humanitarian work" in the Kaliningrad region of Russia, formerly known as Königsberg. The aim of the "charity" was never concealed: to gather ethnic Germans from all over the former Soviet Union in the now Russified city of Kaliningrad.

At the recommendation of the German foreign ministry, had told the Bundestag's de- Roeder received from the army a van and two smaller vehicles, as well as tools and smaller donations. In 1995 Roeder was invited tn lecture at the Bundeswehr academy about his "humanitarian" work.

"Roeder's appearance at the Academy shows that we are unfortunately not dealing with just a couple of drink-crazed thugs in uniform," commented retired general Gerd Schmückhad spent eight years in jail for le yesterday. "The scandal reveals staggering weaknesses in leadership at the Hardthöhe

[Defence Ministry]." Mr Rühe's assertion is that

way into the Academy, and nobody noticed with whom they were dealing. Furthermore, the defence ministry claims that the vehicles for Roeder's "charitable" work were obtained by another member of the organisatinn not nated for neo-Nazi activities. Germany keeps de-

tailed lists of political extrem-

ists, which are circulated to all

government departments.

Roeder would have been some-

where in the top 10 of these lists. If it emerges that the ministry had dealt with Roeder in person in its official correspondence, Mr Rühe's last line of defence sheer stupidity - collapses. In yesterday's heated parliamentary debate, the Green MP Angelika Beer directly accused the

minister of lying. The Greens and the Social Democrats are jointly calling for a parliamentary inquiry, beyond the independent inquest ordered by Mr Rühe.

Once regarded as one of two possible successors to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr Rühe's political prospects now appear limited to hanging on until elections next September.



Goose is cooked for traditional foie gras producers

consumed in France at the agriculture ministry said. Christmas, the government reported yesterday.

foic gras - the fat-laden liver ed little cage space and could throats on an individual basis.

Ducks have waddled past geese from force-fed birds - came be force-fed by hydraulic or as the source of foie gras, the from ducks last year empared pneumane machines. gourmet paté treat traditional- to about 540 tonnes from geese.

geese to produce foie gras use This year, it added, even traditional methods, bringing more would come from ducks them up in the farmyard and More than 10,000 tonnes of because they grew faster, need stuffing whole grains down their tutes cruelty to animals.

Little foie gras is consumed outside France. A few dozen Most of the farms raising tonnes are exported to Japan, hut the United States bans imports on the grounds that the force-feeding process consti-

Grave Yeltsin appears on television

President Boris Yeltsin appeared on Russian television yesterday a day after going down with an acute viral infection and being ordered by his doctors to rest.

The Kremlin said the 66-year old president's illness was not serious but Mr Yeltsin had to cancel plans to record a radio hroadcast to mark today's Constitution Day public holiday.

The official television footage, released without sound, showed Mr Yeltsin greeting his chief-of-staff, Valentin Yumashev, at the Barvikha sanatorium outside Moscow, where the president is expected to stay for up to 12 days.

Mr Yeltsin moved relatively freely hut looked grave and did not smile.

"The president is in some discomfort and has a temperature of 37.3C," said a Kremlin

Bulgarian President Petar Stovanov, who had been due to visit Moscow next week, told reporters in Sofia he had spoken for 20 minutes by telephone with Mr Yeltsin yesterday and that his trip had been postponed until February or March.

The Kremlin dismissed a Western media report saying Mr Yeltsin had suffered a renewed bout of heart trouble.

ty tunes in 1

Spanish tycoons chip in to keep their king at sea in some style

Spain's royals, like their British counterparts, have a problem with their clapped-out yacht. But for King Juan Carlos, help may be at hand. Elizabeth Nash reports.

King Juan Carlos yesterday Palace near Madrid a delegation set up a Cultural Tourism Fund the purpose in appreciation of on trial for fraud. the King's help in boosting the image of their islands.

The royal family holiday

moored. It has provided countless photo-opportunities for visiting dignitaries from Diana, Princess of Wales to Bill and Hillary Clinton.

der the new craft to be made ready for the summer of 1999. welcomed to the Zarzuela 1992 hut which for reasons of destinations. Their leader, economy he declined. The shipof Spanish businessmen who yard was owned by Banesto tel chain, started as a busdrivwant to buy him a new yacht to hank, whose boss, Mario er. replace his much-loved but age- Conde, tried to give the yacht Fortung. The 25 entrepre- to the King as a present. But he neurs from the Balearies have declined the offer from the cal failures in its 18-year history. man who was shortly to be to raise 3bn pesetas (£13m) for sacked in disgrace, and who is the King was in 1988, when, with

Unlike Britain's royals, who are awaiting a decision on what the Mallorcan port of Soller by will be done with the Britannia. every year in their summer King Juan Carlos and Queen palace. Marivent. on Mallorca, Sofia have no private fortune of King's Cup regatta after a prowhere the Fortuna, given to their own. They must be tempt- peller fault caused an explosion the King in 1979 by King Fahd ed by an offer, backed by the is- in the engine room.

of Saudi Arabia, is usually lands' regional authorities, that seems unlikely to arouse con-

The tycoons are mostly men from humble beginnings who have in 30 years made fortunes The businessmen want to or- from the economic revolution that transformed the islands of Mallorca, Minorca, Ibiza, For-It will be constructed on the mentera and Cahrera into one lines of one built for the king in of world's most popular tourist Gabriel Barcelo, who runs a ho-

Fortuna has suffered a num-Perhaps the worst moment for the Prince of Wales on board. the yacht had to be towed into two fishing boats. In 1995 For-



Above average interest from Midland

| TESSA | 7.75% T | ax Free | Follow up TESSA | v up TESSA 7.75% Tax | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Exchequer | Annual Interest | | Exchequer | Annual Interest | | |
| 90 Oay Notice | Gross % | Net % | 30 Oay Notice | Gross % | | |
| Up to £10,000 | 6.00 | 4.80 4.96 5.12 5.20 5.36 | Up to £5,000 | 4.25 | 3.40 | |
| £10,000+ | 6.20 6.40 6.50 6.70 | | £5,000+ | 4.75 | 3.80 | |
| £25,000+ | | | £10,000+ | 5.00 | 4.00 | |
| £50,000+ | | | £25,000 + £50,000+ | 5.50 | 4.40 | |
| £100,000+ | | | | 6.00 | 4.80 | |
| £250,000+ | 6.85 | 5.48 | | 0.00 | 7.00 | |
| | Monthly | interest | | Manual. | | |
| Up to £10,000 £10,000+ £25,000+ £50,000+ £100,000+ | Gross % | Net % | | Monthly Gross % 4.17 4.65 | Net % 3.33 3.72 3.91 | |
| | 5.85 6.04 6.22 6.32 6.51 | 4.68 | Up to £5,000 £5,000+ | | | |
| | | 4.83 | | | | |
| | | 4.97 | £10,000+ | 4.89 | | |
| | | 5.05 | £25,000+ £50,000+ | 5.37 | | |
| | | 5.20 | | | 4.29 | |
| £250,000+ | 6.65 | 5.32 | -55,500 | 5.85 | 4.68 | |
| Meridian Savings | Gross % | Net % | Sauce Bl | | | |
| (Instant Access) | | | Saver Plus | Gross % | Net % | |
| Up to £10,000 | 4.65 | 3.72 | (Instant Access) | | | |
| £10,000+ | 4.89 | 3.91 | Up to £5,000 | 4.21 | 3.36 | |
| £25,000+ | 5.37 | 4.29 | £5,000+ | 4.70 | 3.76 | |
| £50,000+ | 5.85 | 4.68 | £10,000÷ | 4.94 | 3.95 | |
| | 03 | 7.00 | £25,000+ | 5.43 | 4.34 | |
| | | | £50.000+ | 5.92 | | |

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings.

Net: The rate after the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. Tax Free: Tax free means that the interest is free of tax applied to interest on savings.

Midland Bank plc, 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 28X

Member HSBC Group

| Dixons |
|--|
| satellite for only system A |
| When you subscribe to any Sky Channel Package for 12 months.* Currently from £11.99 per month, and pay a one-off connection charge of £12. New subscribers only. |
| plus free installation |
| SIV pur best ever Christmas line up |
| FA Carling Premiership Sky Sports 1 |
| Priends New series on Sky One Plus coming soon Five Nations Rugby GRUNDIG GSR1 STEREO SATELLITE RECEIVER WITH Also available GRUNDIG GSR1/80 with 80cm Dish for |
| 48cm OR 60cm DISH • 100 channels/23 presets. • Parental lock. • Astra 1D compatible. • Astra 1D compatible. Dixons Deal £49.99* £69.99* |
| There's a Great Deal going on |

Offer not available to previous or existing subscribers or their households. Offer closes 11/01/58. Minimum subscription period 12 months. Subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription Contract. Pay-per-view events or programmes are not included within this subscription. The one-off connection charge is payable with the first subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription Contract. Pay-per-view events or programmes are not included within this subscription charge is payable with the first subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges in payable with the first subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges in payable with the first subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges in payable with the first subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges in payable with the first subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges in payable with the first subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges in payable with the first subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges in payable with the first subscription charges may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges in payable with the first subscription charges may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges in payable with the terms of the Subscription charges may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription charges may vary in accordance with the terms of the subscription charges may vary in accordance with the terms of the charges in accordance with the terms of the subscription charges may vary in accordance with the terms of the charges in accor

Srave Yeltsin ippears on elevision

Ex-chairman damns Opera House report

Lord Chadlington, who quit as chairman of the Royal Opera House last week, has angrily hit back at a scathing parliamentary report which forced his resignation. Alexandra Williams looks at the accusations directed at Gerald Kaufman, head of the Commons Culture

Last week the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee de-tee's report is written - of which livered a damning indictment of the management at one of Britain's greatest cultural insti-

Committee.

The running of Covent Garden was "chaotie" and a "shambles" and the embattled board was told to resign.

The chairman of the board, in its 51 years, "run by a Philisord Chadlington, duly did so tine with the requisite financial the day after the blistering 20- acumen than by the succession page publication, saying that

was the honourable thing to do. His resignation speech was measured: "In the end I felt I don't want to be regarded as a received £78m lottery money public figure who sits on the and an annual subsidy of more would like to comment un."

them off. I've been there only a year, but the responsibility lies with the board. I must give a lead, as a matter of honour."

However, yesterday he furiously hit back at the "hysterical hyperbole" of the report, accusing the Committee of a "gross abuse" of its privileges for attacking "on the flimsiest of evidence and innuendo" publicspirited people who freely gave their time and money to the cause. Writing in The Speciator magazine, under the headline "Gerald, you're wrong ... and bysterical too", he said: "The laoguage in which the commit-Mr Kaufman seems so proud is insulting in the extreme."

The committee of 11. chaired by Mr Kaufman, the Labour MP, launched the inquiry in July. It concluded that it would prefer to see the House, facing the worst financial crisis of opera and ballet-lovers who have brought a great and valu-

able institution to its knees." The Royal Opera House has

fence until someone pushes than £14.5m but has an operating deficit of £4.5m, which is expected to double by the end of 1999. Last month the second rescue package this year saved the house from insolvency.

Yesterday, speaking from Florida, Lord Chadlington said: "The Speciator article was extremely easy to write because it just flowed and is exactly how I feel. Enormous strides have already been made in putting the House in order and as for the exclusivity of House that's the very thing I was addressing."

Whilst he accepted that change was needed, he said he had already initiated much change, particularly in financial controls, management information and corporate gover-nance. He implied that he felt the committee had abused its powers by hounding people out of office and discrediting the efforts of management rather than just advising government.

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, is expected to make an announcement concerning the future of the House next week. A department spokeswoman said: "Lord Chadlington's comments are his personal opinion, not something we



Consuming passion: This year's festive offering by London's Tate Gallery, called Christmas Tree 1997, by Michael Landy, 34, symbolises society's waste. Called a 'deeply moral work', its features include a Photograph: Andrew Buurman Teletubby, plastic bags and a pizza box. Some items will be recycled.

BBC to tape the people's 20th century

The BBC has unveiled the first of its plans to mark the millennium. Paul McCann, Media Correspondent. explains why its scope may give a voice to those who history has ignored.

The BBC is to produce the higgest oral history archive in the country by recording nearly 3,000 hours of people talking about their lives during the 20th century as part of its plans to mark the millennium.

Up to 500 hours of the archive will be broadcast oo BBC local radio in 1999, while the rest will be made available to the Millennium Dome, the British Library, local libraries and touring exhibitions.

As well as the £1m oral history, which will be broadcast in 2000, the corporation has commissioned a £5m, 16-part history of Britain which will be written and presented by Simon Schama, professor of history at Columbia University in New York.

The oral history project will be compiled by the BBC's 38 local radio stations in England and the radio stations in Scotland, Northero Ireland and Wales. The plan is to talk to young and old people about their lives at various times during the century. The interviews will be used to build up an archive of social history that can be accessed by CD-Rom and audio tape.

Michael Green, former controller of Radio 4, who is to direct the project, said: "The factor that makes this unique, apart from its sheer scale, is the way it will focus on social histories. It will not be about how Governments fell, but about the everyday lives of everyday people in every corner of the land."

Dr Simon Szreter, lecturer in social history at Cambridge University, said: "It's colossal. Oral history is important because it gives you access to areas of history that are neglected by formal documents. It gives insights on the history of the working class, the history of women, or children or the history of sexuality. This is undoubtedly a very good initiative."

For BBC television the millennium will be marked by a history of Britain since the Romans. It too will cover the history of how people lived. Professor Schama said: "It's time for the popular medium of our time - television - to reintroduce the astonishing history of Britain's past, hig with glory and disaster, misery and splendour, to a new generation. It's time to rediscover the meaning of being British.

Kirsty tunes in for £500,000

Newsreader Kirsty Young's po- Ross and Carol McGriffin, will sitiun as the brightest thing on Channel 5 was confirmed yesterday when Talk Radio signed er up to present its daily mentinterviews and phone ins. breakfast show in a deal worth £500,000. It marks a growing trend for broadcasters to work across a number of outlets at the same time.

Young. 28, will continue to present the Channel 5 evening has been praised for its new apnews, where she has made a success of a unique format that involves her perching on a desk and walking around the studio. Westminster reports and con-Radio's breakfast show, Paul interest" items. In a separate ent audiences.

erest

move to Talk's weekend morning show. The breakfast show is a mixture of news, entertain-

Other news programmes are understood to have been approaching Young, but she recently signed a new contract to stay with Channel 5 until 2000. The channel's news programme proach: the format less formal, with shorter news items and the news agenda dictated less by centrating more on "consumer

boost yesterday, the news show picked up the Royal Television Society's craft and design award for the look of the show. Its style is designed to attract

a younger audience than traditional programmes and the show has been getting respectable ratings of around half a million. The distinctiveness of the show was confirmed last month, when the Independent Television Commission allowed Channel 5 to move Young's news to 7pm from January, the same time as Channel 4's news, because they serve very differ-Paul McCann





Nobody knows the fate of Camilla Carr and Jon James but ction, writes Jack O'Sullivan, has been added to silent hope.

This Christmas, Alexandra Little will be tucked up in her comfortable house with husband and four children. For the 41-year-old ex-model, with her alarmingly perfect white teeth and coiffured hair. there will he all the expensive pleasures that success in the advertising world provide in the Surrey stockbroker belt.

Meanwhile, her sister Camilla Carr may well, if she is still alive, he stuck in a freezing cell in some devastated quarter of Grozny, the prisoner of Chechen handits who kidnapped her and Jon James, her partner, last July.

The Carr sisters are very different creatures. If they weren't related, perhaps they wouldn't want to know each other. When they were at public school in Shrewshury, Camilla, jaunty and earnest with her long curly hair, was head of hockey, while her sister preferred to hide in the art room ("I hated all sport"). Afterwards Alexandra plunged lucratively into the commercial world of Soho advertising, while Camilla went off to Amsterdam to put on what Alexandra now remembers as "very wild, no I can't use that word, let's say 'avant garde' plays." She later became a respected sculptor. In Jon James she found a kindred spirit. The son of a Gloucestershire postman, he has spent much of his life involved in alternative therapies and has particular interests in Native American and Celtic cultures. An outdoor type, at the age of 10 he famously canoed the Severn tidal bore. "He only ever wants enough money to live on," says his mother, Doris,

Alexandra remembers a winter visit the pair made to her weekend cottage at Lyme Regis. "They just peeled off and ran down for a swim in the sea. It was the middle of Fehruary. Even my Norweigian au pair was amazed."

Still, it wasn't easy for Alexandra to understand why, last April, Camilla decided to drive across Europe with James, 37. to Grozny. Each left a young son hehind. They took an old Lada. The family still marvels at a photograph of them crouched over a stove just after they had arrived in Grozny: "No key, no electricity, so we make tea," is scribbled on the

Now Camilla's survival, and her abducted partner's, could depend on Alexandra's ability to wage a campaign of which Jill Morrell would be proud.

It started this week, when families of the kidnapped couple held a special service at St James', Piccadilly. The opening hymn was Camilla's favourite -'Lord of the Dance", dozens of candles were lit by the congregation and everyone held hands for a "magic squceze" that rippled through the congregation. Terry Waite reminded the families of an occasion when his wife read newspaper headlines saying he was dead. Never believe anything you hear until it is confirmed, he advised. John McCarthy spoke. "If they get any hint," he said, "that we are all here launching this cam-



Waiting: Alexandra Little has had no news of her sister Camilla (below) for months. Below right, Camilla with Jon James in Grozny Brian Harris

paign, it will give them a huge amount Blur will help us." says Alexandra.

of support and encouragement." For five months the family had remained silent about the kidnap in accordance with the Foreign Office's hind the scenes would do the trick. But

that the couple were alive, the family de-

cided it was time to make a move. And

now, the FO, nervous of seeming lag-

gardly - as they did over the McCarthy

kidnap - smartly despatched their min-

ister, Baroness Symons, to sit in the front

church events are planned, along with T-

shirts, concerts and a record - "We're hop-

row at the service. Further Christmas rock elements."

ing that a really well-known group like complete free spirits to people with

Although Camilla's brother. Raj. is involved, as is the family of Jon James. Alexandra is the central figure. Her husband, David Little, creative director of desires; they had hoped that working be-the London advertising agency Davies. Little Cowley, has helped organise the when that policy failed even to confirm campaign. He's strong-jawed with a

hard-selling style usually reserved for pro-

moting comflakes. "I believe in consis-

tency and icons," he says. "We have one

simple theme - support Camilla and Jon

- and one great photo that is being used

everywhere. These are the two stick-of-

on the Carr family. "They range from

David Little has an equally candid take

their feet on the ground." It was always so. Camilla and Alexandra's father was an Old Etonian bomber pilot in the Secand World War, whose wife Helen supplied the bohemian strain, graduating from the Slade School of Fine Art. She is descended from Thomas Cobbe, a British army officer who famously married an Indian

from princess Udaipur in the last century and died on his journey back to Ireland leaving her with 10 children. Camilla took after her mother's side of the family. The pair share interests in spiritual healing and Sulīism. "Camilla and I," says the mother proudly.

maris to promote world peace." I ask Alexandra how she is coping with the kidnap, "There are days and days when you don't sleep," she says, "and then days when all you do is sleep because you are so tired. I had a lot of nightmares, especially at the beginning, imagining that Camilla was in a dark wet cave. More re-

know why, but I just feel it. It is more than likely that she has been moved. Maybe they have been sold on by their kidnappers for financial reasons.

"Hearing about the kidnap was a terrible shock. I had been to my daughter's speech day. We had heard on the car radie that a British married couple had been kidnapped in Chechnya, hut I put it out of my mind because Jon and Camilla aren't married. Then when I got home about six, my mother-in-law was on the phone and said. Turn on the television immediately. It's Camilla - I think she's heen kidnapped.' So I turned the television on and I could see Camilla's face staring out at me."

The sisters had spoken only a few days hefore, when Camilla had been in Moscow, buying furniture for The Little Star, the centre for rehabilitating traumatised children, run under the auspices of the Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development, a Quaker aid to Rajastan in 1994 organisation. "There seemed to be no hint to a conference held of danger. They seemed to be OK. They askeu me to puv tennis racquets and them over to the children. I was just about to buy them when the news came

This Christmas, their families hope the great physical and spiritual strength they have gathered during unconventional lives will carry them through the kidnap ordeal. But Camilla Carr and Jon James cently. I have felt that she is being must be praying that the voices of sublooked after in hetter conditions. I don't urbin will finally secure their release.

Kidnapping Westerners has exploded into a multi-million dollar business, says Phil Reeves in Moscow

Jon James and Camilla Carr are caught in the jaws of a ruthless underworld business that has deep historical roots in Chechnya, hut exploded into a multi-million dollar racket in hartering humans after the end of the republic's war with Russia. Scores of people, including international aid workers and journalists, have this year been abducted by kidnappers whose motives may be tangled with the complex politics of the Caucasus, but hinge on the hope of netting a seven-figure sum. Although a few outsiders have made discreet visits to Chechnya in recent months, a wave of kidnappings has turned the former war zone into a destination that is considerably more dangerous for foreigners than it was when the bombs were raining down during the 21-month conflict which flattened the capital, Grozny. The plight of the British pair is not helped by the fact that in a number of cases - despite routine official deninls - cash has been handed over by international and Russian organisations in return for releases. The standard price on a Western head is \$1m. Kidnappers of three members of the French charity EquiLibre, are helicved to bave received \$3m in return for their freedom. There is also little doubt that large sums have been paid to free abducted Russian journalists, who included a celehrated reporter, Yelena Masyuk. Foreign Office policy is to refuse to pay ransoms, but a troublesome precedent has been set. If the ordeal of another captive is any guide, the Britons' conditions are likely to bear an unpleasant resemblance to the Beirut experiences of two men now supporting their publicity campaign back home, Terry Waite and John McCarthy. Christophe André, a French aid worker with Médicins Sans Frontières (MSF), was held in captivity for four months before he reportedly managed to escape from his cell in October and, after trekking through the countryside for several hours, hitched a ride back into Grozny. The conditions were grim. MSF later revealed he was almost always chained to a wall in a boarded-up room, being released for a mere 30 minutes a day to wash. His diet consisted of vegetable soup, and bread three times a day. Occasionally, he was given eggs, meat or rice but the food was so meagre that he lost three stone. He received no change of clothing, he was only ever able to wash his entire body a handful of times. Using tactics common in the Lebanon, he was moved four times during his captivity, presumably because his jailers wanted to avoid detection. In realtremely difficult. The separatists' government is in chaos, and depends on volunteer former fighters to carry out hostage searches. It is a rural mountainous republic, dotted with villages whose large brick houses, plentiful food supplies, and clannish communities, make it an easy place to hide someone until the price is

1 Eden-Gree

 $(\pi,\Phi)_{\underline{g}}$

THE INDEPENDENT

WIN an OMEGA Seamaster Watch

- as seen in Bond films 'Goldeneye' & 'Tomorrow Never Dies'



Be suave, stylish and sophisticated as James Bond by owning the OMEGA Seamaster

seconds and date; power

reserve of 42 hours; unidi-

rectional turning aluminium

hezel; helium escape valve;

reflective scratch-resistant Professional Diver watch. We have one OMEGA Seamaster watch to win, to

In 'Tomorrow Never Dies' enter this competition, simenemies in a world-wide ply dial the number below. battle for media power answer the following question on line and leave your however it can also keep name and full address.

It is water-resistant to 300 Q: To what depth is the metres; has a self winding **OMEGA Seamaster** chronometer movement watch water-resistant? showing the hours, minutes,

skeleton hands and and-

Cail 0930 564 007

22 December 1997 - Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final

Why, despite everything, I could never mind the Gap

Was it the party invitation that did the trick? Not really. No, it was the photograph of course. To you it may just be a baby. To Gap it may just be a customer. But to Rosie Millard it is a world superstar.

The woman in Gap Kids was quite clear. "There's a kid's party next Sunday in this branch," she said, wrapping up my daughter's white zip-up furry boots (size 0) and turquoise velour top, also zip-up, (size 3-6 months). "But it will he a nightmare, so come early." She gives me a special invitation. A Gift For You. "Have your child's photo taken and placed in a card modeled (sic) after our ads," it reads.

"There'll be food, and face-painting. I won't be there. I'm leaving", continued the assistant with a manner implying she was more than a little weary of dealing with zip-up furry boots, size Midget. "I'm off to Jigsaw, I can't wait."

There's no doubt that if my daughter's life continues as it has begun, she will be very spoilt indeed. "But you can't really spoil a four-month-old," I claim, nervously laughing while hiding evidence of her latest toy/dress/batterydriven plastic mobile from the inspection of the nanny, And a photograph in the style of a Gap advert! It would be so perfect. "I mean, she has the clothes, so a matching photograph; it's only proper," I say to my husband as we pack a supply of emergency nappies and bottles for our weekend exodus to Gap Kids in Central London a fortnight hefore Christmas.

The shop, if anything, is more crowded than the pavement outside. Which is saying something since half the Western world appears to have

chosen this weekend to hit town. However, there ends the similarity. Everyone Inside Gap Kids is toting a child. A woman of about 40 is prancing around in a fairy outlit. On a table are minute mince-pies and tiny hiscuits shaped like holly leaves, presumably for children. Fathers are guiltily eating

I point to the lower ground floor; we need to go down to BahyGap, where instead of sweatpants for stubborn 10year-olds, the rails are full of dear linle velvet dresses for malleable times. Gap Kids deals with placating children who want to he in an adult world; BabyGap is an empire designed for adults who want their children to look like something out of Peter Pan. And this is where the photographs are heing taken. "We don't take pictures of anyone over five, really," says the assistant. "They don't fit in the studio." And they're not

half as sweet either. We spend the obligatory £15 (of which 20 per cent goes to Barnados, I remind myself) on a dear little snowflake jumper. And a matching hat, and socks. Well, by the end it comes to quite a lot more than 15 quid, but then you are helping charity. I remind my husband. We are then given a ticket and wait in line by the studio, where a man

called Russell is taking the photos, The studio has that all-white hackground into which the children are placed and which all Gap adverts have to have for that classless, timeless, placeless look. Will our daughter. Phoehe, look like one of those sweet children one sees on the side of a hus, laughing easily in their Gap hats and cardigans? I hope so, I also secretly hope a Gap talent-spotter in the shop might see how pretty she is and scleet her for a global campaign, I immediately banish the idea and think



snohhish thoughts about awful pushy parents like the mother of Brooke Shields.

A rather sweet girl of about three is posing in the White Studio. She is wearing Dame Edna-like pink plastic glasses with no lenses in. 'Come along, Florence," says her mother testily. The flash fires, and that's it; the Gap Free Gift amounts to one Polaroid Instamatic snap which is then inserted into a "advert" card for you to take away. And let's not have any nunsense about hoardings on the sides of buses. The card in question is rather small. But never

Let's have a look at that Polamid, I say to Florence's mother. I want to see how authentic this all is. The picture shows Florence hearning out of her pink plastic rims looking utterly sweet in that global village-esque manner that is so very Gap, "Of course, those glasses aren't necessary," says her mother, just

Phoebe in excelsis she may not make an ad campaign but she makes a lovely Christmas card

in case I think her child suffers from some weird opthalmic condition necessitating lens-free glasses. "But she won't take them off. Loves them."

The session continues. There is Kylie, who screams all the time; Holly, who has to be placated with a special BahyGap hand puppet; Jason, who appears in a BabyGap leopard-print suit and haby Eva who is only eight weeks old. is propped up on a large pillow and clearly has no idea what on earth is going "EEEEva!" shouts her mother. Eva. hy accident, waves a tiny paw. The camera fires. Another child transmogrified into the clean world of

the Gap advert. Christmas music is piped all around us. Gap employees stand hrushing hair and wiping faces of children lined up for their photographs. I wake Phoehe up and we solemnly put her into her new snowflake jumper and matching hat. She is carried into the white studio and propped up on the white pillow. I call her name. She sucks her fist and looks vaguely at Russell

Afterwards, I look at the picture of my child; and I can't help it. I wish the result could he used in a worldwide bus campaign, I really do. I know all about pushy parents, but she just looks so perfect. Just like an official advert for BabyGap clothes worn by overprivileged children. "Maybe we could furn the picture into our Christmas card." I say hopefully when we get

حكتا من الاجل

Alfred Roome

Alfred Wallace Roome, film editor: born London 22 December 1908; married Janice Adair (died 1996; one daughter, and one son deceased) died Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire 19 November 1997.

Alfred Roome's career as a film editor spans virtually the whole history of mainstream British popular cinema: he began editing Aldwych farces, graduated to the classic Will Hay comedies and progressed - if that's the correct word -Askey and Ronald Shiner vehieles to three "Doctor" films and no less than 14 Carry Ons.

His other work includes a major feature for Alfred Hitchcock (The Lady Vanishes - surely the best of Hitch's British output?) plus editing for such major British directors as Anthony Asquith and Sir Carol Reed, while his working relationships with Launder and Gilliatt and Betty Box and Raiph Thomas embraced many the best films of these distinguished British producerdirector teams. Though everybody called him "Alfie", his screen credits hegan as A.W. Roome and ended as Alfred Roome.

Roome came from a Somerset family. His father was managing director of the Daily Mirror and family shares in the Mirror Group gave the youngster independent wealth. His father wanted young Alfie to follow him in the newspaper business, but Roome had been given a camera at an early age, and was smitten with the cinema. At school he began experimenting with projectors and amps, and founded his school ilm society. Sent to finish his education in Paris, he made amateur movies featuring his cousins.

To deter his ambition to work fie refused, and secured a job as assistant in the property department at Elstree in 1927, at the age of 18. His real goal was the editing department, and the producer Herbert Wilcox gave him the opportunity the following

assistant, However, when extra camera assistants were needed on Blackmail in 1929, Roome moved across to the studio floor, working for the first time with the and married Janice Adair, the leading lady of another British film concurrently shooting -Wallace - and they remained married until her death in 1996. Roome went back into the

cutting rooms, and fetched up as an assistant in 1933 at the Shepherd's Bush Lime Grove through Will Fyffe, Arthur studios of Gaumont-British, where he achieved his cutting break, hired as editor on the film version of the famous Ben Travers Aldywch farce Thark Ralph Lynn, directed by Walls and produced by Herbert Wilcox. This was followed by a sequence of six Tom Walls features which led to a reputation for comedy and a subsequent association with Will Hay, first (1935), then that memorable sequence of comedy classics featuring Hay and his associates "Old" Moore Marriott and the Fat Boy Graham Moffatt, most notably the timeless Oh, Mr Porter! (1939; recently rescreened to celebrate the Odeon Leicester Square's 60th hirthday), Ask a Policeman (1938)

and Where's That Fire (1939). It hecame clear Roome had a natural aptitude for editing a specific style of British comedy. In 1938 he was hired for The Lady Vanishes for Alfred Hitchcock, establishing a relationship with the actors Basil Radford and Naunton Wayne. Roome also edited another key British film, the young Carol Reed's Bank Holiday (1938), which led to Reed's classics Kipps (1941) and The Young Mr Put (1942).

Interspersing these with a in the film industry, his father offered him a world cruise, but Al- music-hall stars Flanagan and Allen and radio's Arthur Askey, including Alf's Button Afloat (1937) and King Arthur was a Gentleman (1942) plus the film version of Askey's radio show Band Waggon (1939). A more distinguished feature was Dr Syn year to work as a cutting-room starting George Arliss (1937).

ond World War, Roome found himself editing propaganda formatioo, and thus became young director Alfred Hitchcock. exempt from military service, his While on Blackmail Roome met work being rightly deemed of national importance. Among the more significant shorts he edited were the seven-minute Mr Red Aces (1929), written and Proudfoot Shows a Light (1941) directed by the novelist Edgar starring the music hall's Sidney Howard, and the five-minute Rush Hour (1941) directed by Anthony Asquith, plus the unfairly neglected Dunkirk eightminute short Channel Incident (1940) containing Peggy Ash-

croft's finest screen moment. also directed by Asquith. Roome also functioned as an Air Raid Warden, and continued to edit major features including (1933), starring Tom Walls and the propagandist Launder and Gilliatt Millions Like Us (1943) and their immensely popular Waterloo Road (1944), in which the climactic punch-up was a triumph of film editing, convincing audiences world-wide that five-foot-nothing puny hero editing Boys Will Be Boys John Mills could heat up sixfoot-plus muscular spiv Stewart Granger. His former assistant Frances Edge recalls that when an enemy bomb exploded shaking the Shepherd's Bush studios, Roome simply ignored it.

The Borstal saga Boys in Brown (1940) was the first Gainsborough film to he based at Pinewood; Montgomery Tuily directed it but Roome was associate director. Roome also directed, in tandem with Roy Rich, a pair of Gainsborough features: the Jack Warner vehicle My Brother's Keeper and It's Not Cricket (both 1948), reuniting the duo of cricket lovers from The Lady Vanishes, Basil Radford and Naunton Wayne.

Although Roome did not direct again - "I had trouble dealing with actors" he said his contribution to cinema was undoubtedly greater than that of the majority of the directors for whom he edited, and after a period as Associate Producas Christopher Columbus and ting rooms, working almost sole-

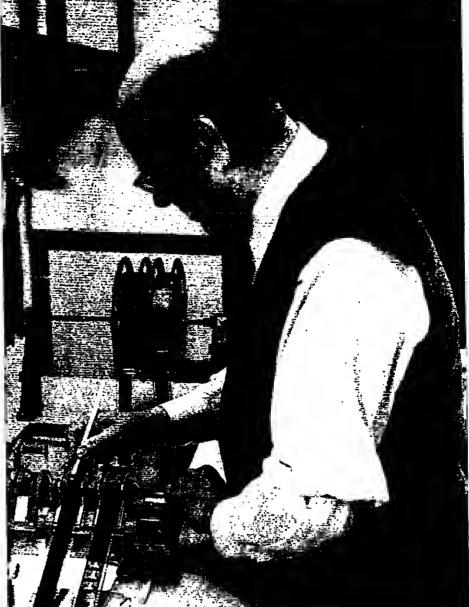
With the outbreak of the Sec- wood: at Gainsborough he worked for the studio head Sydney Box, brother of Betty E. Box. shorts for the Ministry of In- As producer, Box began a 20year collaboration with the director Ralph Thomas, while her husband Peter Rogers began an equally fruitful partnership with Thomas's brother Gerald. Today, the admirable Betty Box/ Ralph Thomas pictures are unfairly neglected while the success of the Peter Rogers/Gerald Thomas "Carry On" series has passed into legend.

Alfred Roome's tenure at Pinewood embraced many of the best of the Betty Box/Ralph Thomas output (and the worst -three late "Doctor" comedies) including the painfully moving Conspiracy of Hearts (1960) and the courageous and politically outspoken No Love For Johnnie (1961), Roome's only feature in CinemaScope, plus any number of features invariably starring Dirk Bogarde, Kenneth More or Michael Craig.

Ken Annakin was another director Roome regularly worked with, and Annakin's best films, the very funny Hotel Sahara (1951) and the Graham Greene adaptation Across the Bridge (1957) owe much to him. Today as the craft of editing

is eroded by electronic machines offering an infinite variety of edits, it is worth recalling Alfie Roome's classic method of working: he used to view all the material needed for a sequence before starting editing, including both selected and nonselected takes, and then edited the sequence as he saw fit. It seldom changed much.

His former assistant Don Sharpe remembers that for the last part of the portmanteau film Trio (1951), called "Sanatorium", Roome's cut stood as assembled. "It went from his cut to neg cut," says Sharpe, "with no changes." Roome used to file his own trims with enormous exactitude, taking pains to ensure they all hung correctly to exactly the same sprocket hale on the trim bin. It er on such box-office disasters was said of Roome that he was so neat that his cutting room The Bad Lord Byron (both looked as if hardly any work had 1949), he returned to the cut- been done by the end of the day. Eventually he never worked ly for the unacknowledged overtime, nor had any need to, dynastic royal family of Pine- a far cry from his early days at the Foreign Legion romp Fol-



A flair for British comedy: Roome in the cutting rooms at Pinewood Studios

Islington and Shepherd's Bush when he worked all hours, and was grateful for the emergence of the film unions that called a halt to such exploitation.

He made few close professinnal friends, preferring nol to socialise but to return home at the end of his working day, and although he lived close to Pinewood, he never went home for lunch, preferring not to disrupt his routine. However, he did buy his house from Sir John Mills, and a frequent visitor to his huge estate in Fulmer was his long-time friend from the Gainsborough days Phyilis Calvert.

When in 1967 the Peter Rogers-produced "Carry On" series moved to Pinewood with

logical choice to edit it, a man well known for his flair with British comedy, a genuinely funny man himself, full of humorous anecdotes. It was followed by 13 successive Carry Ons including some of the best (Up the Khyber, 1968; Doctor. 1967; At Your Convenience 1971) and several of the worst (Girls, 1973; Dick, 1974; Behind, 1975). This run was broken only by the film version of the television series Bless This House, also starring Carry On's

low That Camel, Roome was the

1930s, 1940s and 1950s. Carry On, Roome bumped into Alfred Hitchcock, then engaged

Sidney James, a far cry from the

prestige Rank features of the

on Frenzy, in the corridors at Pinewood. Hitch greeted Alfie with one of his noted barbs of laconic sadism: "You're getting fatter, Roome," was all he said.

After Carry On Behind in 1975 Roome retired, feeling he was no longer well enough to do justice to film, and in 1988 recorded his reminiscences for the Bectu Oral History Project. A keen gardener, and avid amateur historian, his life was marred by tragedy when his son Christopher was killed in the appalling King's Cross station fire, almost 10 years to the day hefore Roome's own death.

A granddaughler, Olivia, In 1972, while working on a continues the family tradition and works in the film industry. -- Tony Slomon

Sean Hudson

Sean Hudson, photographe born Learnington Spa, Warwickshire I2 February 1935; died Edinburgh 3 December 1997.

"I hide behind my lens," said Scan Hudson. He spent his life as a photographer seeking to square his deeply held beliefs to fairness and social justice with the need to make a living in the commercial world. He happened to be in Bucharest in 1989 when he was swept up in the miners' march on Ceausescu's palace and recorded its sacking. One of the photographs he took then appeared on the front page of the Independent.

Adopted from a children's home aged two. Hudson attended the City of London School, and then the London School of Hotel Management. It was while he was doing National Service in Cyprus that a sergeant shoved a camera in his hands, and said: "Here, gunner, take this and record the riots."

Graduating in photograpby from Guildford School of Art and then the London School of Film Technique, he found his first joh with Donald Alexander's film team making documentaries for the Coal Board. As a freelance his films ranged from the scientific record for an anthropological expedition to south-west Africa to a beautiful film for the Arts Council, The Romanian Brancusi, and, more commercially, Get Carter. His favourite work was with Ken Loach, in particular on the 1969 film Kes. Partly for research, partly as a political statement. Hudson refused to stay in the location film crews hotel, instead finding lodgings with a local miner's family. Miners had a habit of featuring in his life.

The need to do more led him to work for the Workers' Revolutionary Party, then experiencing a boost from Vanessa Redgrave, but, eventually disil-Jusioned, he fled London to start life again in Edinburgh. Initially he earnt his keep as a waiter, while establishing himself as a freelance photographer, specialising in drama. He was heavily involved in the Festival and in 1983 became its official photographer. He was in demand with Scotland's theatres, and Royal Shakespeare Company and the Brighton Festival, the Limoges Festival in France, and the Venice Biennale.

Typically, when asked to help some Romanian actors dismissed by the Ceausescu regime, he instantly agreed to go lo Bucharest, for no fee, to produce the necessary publicity photographs to set up an independent theatre. It turned out that Mibaj Maniutiu was a brilliant director and when his company later toured the UK it received great acclaim. Such actions made Hudson friends. hut not money.

Sean Hudson bad a gift of openness and calm that put people at case, which contributed to his success both with performing artists and on a personal level, where he melted into one's family to become the firm friend of all generations.

In the end the court had to

Alan Eden-Green

Alan Beynon Eden-Green, 10 6 Jublic relations officer: born Stafford t2 April 1916; married 1939 Winifred Mead (two sons); died Larkfield, Kent 24 November 1997.

> Alan Eden-Green capped a distinguished career in public relations by playing a key role in the initial creation and later success of the Industry and Parliament



Eden-Green: integrity

He was educated at the Roan School in Blackheath. but was denied study at a university because of the need to support his mother after his father's death. As a conscientious objector during the Second World War he performed vol-

Council in the blitz, driving mobile canteens and putting up Anderson shelters for the elderly.

In 1949 he became Public Relations Officer for Lambeth, the start of his career in public relations. Among his imaginative ideas later as PRO for Wedgwood from the mid-Fifties to early Sixties were those of demonstrating the strength of their bone china by having a bus placed on four upturned cups. and installing "Wedgwood Shops within department stores. He resigned when the company passed out of the Wedgwood family and a less con-

genial husiness style prevailed. Eden-Green's great opportunity came when he joined British Oxygen (now BOC) in 1965 as Director of Public Affairs soon after Leslie (now Sir

untary work for Woolwich Leslie) Smith took over as thurity became vested in peo- opening the way for the Speak- two of their sons and families Chairman. British Oxygen was one of those industrial dinosaurs which in the mid-Sixties sleepily bestrode the British scene. According to Smith, "Alan was prominent among the small group of senior managers

who recognised the situation

and (successfully) met the chal-

lenge of revolutionary change." To British Oxygen Eden-Green hrought a new concept of external public relations: openness and truth instead of short-term excuses and glosses. Internally he made a vital contribution to modernising the company's style of working. pompous bowlers and dark suits were out; forenames replaced "Mr or Mrs So-andkept open instead of shut. As

ple and not in their rank." In this new atmosphere ideas and imagination flourished. Eden-Green brought the

same concern for truth and in-

tegrity to his work for the lastitute of Public Relations, of which he was a founder memher in 1948 and President in 1961. He played a decisive part in turning public relations into a profession with a rigorous Code of Practice - and at the same time winning acceptance that public relations was central to the functions of management.

After retirement from BOC Eden-Green brought all this experience to the eventual launching of the Industry and Parliament Trust in 1977. His So"; managerial doors were patience and obvious sincerity enabled the new trust to win all-Smith says: "Respect and au- party parliamentary support,

er and other officials of the House to be associated with it. win the active participation of a widely representative industrial membership. In 1984 he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the trust by its then President, Bernard (now Lord) Weatherill, Speaker of the House of Commons.

With Winifred, his muchloved wife, Eden-Green enjoyed a long and happy marriage and a richly fulfilled family life, first in Blackheath (where he made an "adventure-playground" pirate ship in the garden for his four boys), later in Teddington. where his motor cruiser was moored in the creek ready for a voyage to some jolly Thameside pub, and lastly in Lunsford in Kent where he, Winifred, and

lived in a cluster of old farm buildings. These centres of warm They also enabled the trust to and open hospitality were the focuses of an astonishingly wide and varied circle of friends. Alan Eden-Green was a man

> of wide reading and great intellectual curiosity. During the Second World War he helped his wife to produce and send out Vera Brittain's pamphlets, Letters from a Peace-lover, and in 1988 the two of them jointly edited a book of Bringin's letters under the title Testament of a Peace Lover. Although he remained a convinced pacifist to the end of his life (a mark of his generous optimism about human nature). he was none the less immensely curious about war and its causes, and he and I used to have

long debates on the topic. - Correlli Barnett

Trust, which has done much to loster mutual understanding between two very different worlds. To his professional life he brought the same special qualities which won him the love of is family and the affection of his many friends - sincerity, integrity, generosity of spirit, conscientiousness in thought and duty, and all combined with a wonderful sense of humour.

Announcements for Gazette

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES

time telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Horse Guards, i Juni.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Goord at

Birthdays Miss Tracy Austin, tennis player, 37;

DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Mar-riages, Deaths, Memorial ser-Mr Lionel Blair, dancer and enter-tainer, (6): Maj-Gen Sir Rupert vices, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writ-Brazier-Creagh, former Director of Staft Duties, War Office, 88; Mr Wil ing to the Gazette Editor, The In-Carling, England rugby player, 32; Miss Denise Colley, actress, direcdependent, t Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EU SDL, tor and writer, ht: Mr Jasper Connoned to 0171-293 2012 (24run, fashion designer, 38; hour answering machine 0171-Kenneth Cranham, actor, 53: The 293 2011) or faxed to 0171-293 2010. Hon Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody MP, 67; Mr William Ebbert, chairman and and are charged at 6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette managing director, Vauxhall Mo-tors, 55: Mr Emerson Fittipaldi, racncements (notices, funcing driver, 51; Miss Connie Francis. Marriages) must be submitted in singer, 59; Mr Roy Granthum, for writing (or faxed) and are charged mer National Secretary, Apex, 71; Air Cummodore Dame Felicity Hill, forat £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daymer Director, WRAAF, \$2 Dr Philip Ledger, principal, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, of Mr Christopher Mullin MP, 50; Mr Frank Sinatra, singer and actor, 82; Mr Clive Thornton, chairman The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Melion Mowbray Building Society. Queen, hold an investign at Bucking-hom Palee. The Duke of Edinburgh, Ad-miral of the Fleet, Usits HMS (Jecon at GEC Marine VSEL Barrow Ships and 68: The Right Rev John Wakeling. former Bishop of Southwell, 79: Miss Dionne Warwick, singer, 56. Bartow-in-Furness Cumbria. The Prince of Wales. President, the Prince's Trust, faunches the trust's Mallennium Awards at

Anniversaries

taunches the trust o Millennium Awards at the Lamelight Cloth, Landon WT. The Princess Royal. Provident, the Princess Royal. Provident the Princes Royal Trust for Cares, voils Holyhead Cares Outreach, Kingsland, Wolchead, Anglesey, and a President Co-Princes Royal Trust for Cares. Lamelies the Cares Support Instative with Samaritans, 9 Townedd Cares. Centre. Bingor, Loynedd The Duke of Kene. Chinector Surrey University, presides over a conference of the Cares. Births: Sir William Beechey, painter. 1"53; Gustave Flaubert, novelist, 1821: Edvard Munch, painter, 1863: Edward G. Robinson (Emanue) Goldenburgt, actor, 1893: John James Osborne, playwight and actor, 1929. Deaths: Roben Browning. Fit Surrey University, presides over a con-terment of degrees ceremony, Guildford, Sonsey. pact, 1889; Douelas Fairbanks Sm (Douglas Elion Ulman), actor, 1939; Tallulah Brockman Bankhead, ac-Iress, 1968. On this day: Spain declared war on Britain, 1804; King George V held a great Coronation

declared war on Japan, 1936; Christopher Cockerell patented the first hovercraft, 1955; the first London production of West Side Story was aon production of their stages, 1958; Kenya became inde-pendent, 1963, and became a republic, 1964; women members were elected to the Jockey Club for the first time. 1977. Today is the Feast Day of St Corentin or Cury. St Edwarga of Minster, Saints Epimachus and Alexan-der, St Finnian of Clonard, St Jane Frances de Chantet and St Vicelin.

Durbar in Delhi, India, 1911: China

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum Amelia Fearn, "Domestic Silver of the First Half of the 18th Century".

Royal Over-Seas League

Mr Martyn Goft, administratur for the Booker Prize, gave a lecture at Rhodes Huuse yesterday evening on behalf of the Royal Over-Seas League for its Oxford members on the subject of the Booker Prize.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.36mm.

United Synagogues 0481-343 8989. Fedoration of Synagogues 0481-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0771-589 1663. Reform classification. Synagogues of Great Britain: 0151-349 4731 . Sparish and Britain: 0151-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masortl): 0171-328 1026.

LAW REPORT: 12 DECEMBER 1997

Prisoner is entitled only to gist of review material

A prisoner whose security categorisation was due for review was entitled only to be informed of the gist of the material to be put before the review body, and not to be given the material in its

P. v Secretary of State for the Horse Department exparte McAsov. Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hobbouse and Lord Justice Mantell) 3 December 1997

the appellant's appeal against the dismissal his application for judicial review of the decision of the Home Secretary not to make available to a prisoner all the material which was to go before a review body considering his security

The Court of Appeal dismissed

The appellant had been been classified as a category A vice Service. Prior in the review

that category ever since. Edward Fitzecrald QC and Philippa Kaufmann (Prisoners' Advice Service) for the appellant; Kenneth Parket QC and Dinah Rose (Treasury Solicitor) for the Horne Secretary.

Lord Woolf MR said that the classification of category A at least with the names of those prisoners was reviewed annually, and was normally conducted by a review team, who referred to a review committee only those cases in which there was an overall recommendation for the Home Secretary not to to downgrade classification, or adopt a more open stance. It cases which had not been before the committee for five years.

The review of the appellant's classification in 1995 had not come within the normal cri- available to the prisoner. If that teria for recommendation to the committee, but had been referred as an exceptional case hecause of representations convicted of a very serious made on his behalf with the asarmed robbery in 1984, and had sistance of the Prisoners' Ad-

prisoner. He had remained in he had been give the gist of the a prisoner of being placed in material which had been prepared for it by the reporting officers at the prison. It was the appellant's con-

> supplied with all the material put before the review body prior to his making representations, or who had provided the information to the review body. Il had been submitted on his behalf that in the light of the authorities there was no justification was the current practice when considering applications for parole to make the material on which the Parole Board acted could be done with regard to parole applications it could equally be done with regard to

The court accepted that it was desirable, when deciding a administrative body, and the matter which had the impact on other was independent.

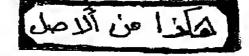
the categorisation process.

category A, that the approach should be to ensure as far as was practicable that fairness tention that a prisoner should be the decision whether in any particular situation the procedure adopted was fair or unfair had to be made not only in the light of the prisoner's situation. but also in the light of the practical considerations which must apply in the proper running of

a prison. There was a distinction in the nature of the process of the Parole Board and the security categorisation review body. The result of a favourable decision by the Parole Board was that the prisoner was released, but a change in security categorisation did not have that effect. The body which reviewed categorisation and the Parole Board were different: one was a purely internal

decide whether the process adopted on review of categorisation was fair with reshould be achieved. However, gard to the nature of the exercise carried out. In R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex p Doody [1994] t AC 531 the House of Lords had endursed the provision of the gist of the material relied on, rather the actual material, where a prisoner serving a mandatory life sentence was to make representations about the period to be served for retribution and deterrence. The procedure being followed under the present policy with regard to categorisation reviews was perfectly satisfactory, particularly because the Home Secretary was prepared to consider in the circumstances of any particular case whether additional information should be made available. The appeal would be dismissed.

-- Kate O'Hnnlon, Barrister



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK. DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 017t 293 2435 OR 017t-345 2435

This week, the Labour Government changed. The private grief, arguments and soul-searching among ministers and lovalist MPs were more important in that change than the resignations and public rebellion. They add up to a party in power that has hardened its face and lost its youthful, bouncy optimism.

The change, New Labour's unpleasant. painful rite of passage, was deliberately inflicted by the Prime Minister. There are a hundred ways in which Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Harriet Harman could have avoided cutting the future income of some of the poorest families in the country. They know that politics, and not simply socialism, is the language of priorities. We now know that paying single mothers not to work, but to stay at home with their children, is not a New Labour priority.

Mr Blair argues that it is far, far helter to push people into jobs. We agree. He points out that his party had been elected on the hasis of sticking to Tory spending limits for a couple of years. Again, quite

right: to breach those would have been to hreak faith with voters. This is particularly important at a time when many middleclass people who cautiously voted New Labour for the first time are lotting up the various perk-removals and indirect new imposts agreed by Mr Blair, and asking themselves how they differ from old-fashioned tax increases.

But it does not then follow that these cuts at this time were the only option. Far from it; they were chosen. And if they hurt. they were meant to hurt, for two reasons. The first is ideology. Despite the refusal by ministers to respond directly to questions about whether they intend to drive people into work, the developing ideology of New Labour, like that of the New Democrats in the United States, is clear on the underlying issues. The party leadership believes that unchecked welfare and a dependency culture pose a moral threat to the nation. This is rarely stated openly except by Frank Field. And it isn't the case that the Prime Minister is identical to any

New Rightist on the matter: Mr Blair will do more to find jobs for people than his predecessors did. He is energetically convincing on the subject. But in his belief in the moral danger of dependency, he is a true heir of Margaret Thatcher. He wants people to work, above all. Work is the bedrock of New Labour thinking, even when it takes a few whips and scorpions to drive welfare-recipients towards it. Mr Blair is not a Tory. But he is not a liberal.

The second reason behind the cut is political strategy. The New Labour leadership sees no threat whatever from the left. Why? Because the kind of people who are conscience-stricken about last night's decision have nowhere else to go. A handful of individual MPs can resign, and rather more than a handful can rebel. But in the end, for them and their supporters in the country, there is no credible alternative force. The Liberal Democrats are the obvious challengers, but they are too geographically concentrated, and too close to Labour on other issues. The Conservatives are flopping about, dazed by Blairism, unsure which way to jump.

While all of that remains true, Blair's political priority is surely to dig ever deeper into traditional Tory territory, appropriating the rhetoric of pro-family, antiwelfare politics, reassuring the hard workers at the expense of the shirkers. His hase can be almost infinitely expanded - can't it?

We would say, watch it. The laws of political physics mean that, if the country was served a consistent diet of illiberal centrism, opposition would harden and grow. It would come not from some new force, but from the Liberal Democrats and from inside the Labour family itself. Look at what they feel already about cuts for the disabled. Lahour is keen, loyal, and still power-hungry. But it is not infinitely flexible.

So look at the faces behind you, Mr Blair, and ponder their expressions: not this week's rebels, but the ones who didn't rebel, who are swallowing hard and are sick at

NOMMER

TEN

DOYNING

STREET

OR YER

A DAD

MAN ...

JUS' KIDDIN

Gordon:
we been the heart. They are your people. They are not aliens or lunatics, but decent, mainstream politicians upon whose loyalty and good sense you will depend. This affair has touched their idea of themselves and their purpose in power. Much more of what happened last week will produce the conditions for a debilitating internal challenge. Imagine it: a cluster of politicians who pronounce themselves not New or Old Labour, but Free Labour, or some such tag.

Given our current electoral system, and the strong central discipline now exercised by Labour, we do not think "Free Labour" would thrive at the polls, or at party conference. Nor would the rebels pose the kind of day-to-day threat to the Government that John Major experienced from his Euro-rebels. But the emergence of a consistent and semi-organised opposition to Blair would be debilitating. It would wear down the party, produce a ready source of hroadcast criticism, hlur the Government's messages and erode its selfassurance. You don't need that, Mr Blair.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fix 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Blair's 'betrayal'

Sir: God bless your "long-standing Labour backbencher" for his tears ("New Labour is hearthroken" 11 December) but God damn him for not obeying his conscience. God bless the Scottish Office minister as he retreats to the backbenches for his courageous rebellion over benefits for lone parents.

After years of waiting for the Conservatives to go away, we now have a Labour government hut we still have a Tory Prime Minister, Those of us who felt so deeply for Neil Kinnock on the night of his defeat in 1992 and loved him for his speech about sorrow for the poor and under-privileged, will hate Blair for - I can find no other words - his treachery.

He has betrayed all of us who helieve that government's first responsibility is to those who cannot make their way unaided in a modern world which increasingly makes demands which many cannot meet. This is what we voted for.

1 am 73. In 1940, I put aside mv Rupert Brooke poems and went to sea in the Merchant Navy murmuring, "Now. God be thanked Who has matched us with this His hour". We fought a just war, and won.

The latest "just war" also seemed to have been won. Now, dreams that I might be allowed to see, for my grandchildren, the dawn of a new age of reason and moral sensibility have been dashed. DAVID SIMPSON

Barry, South Glamorgan

Sir: The assumption made by the Government seems to he that to motivate single parents to go back to work, you have to make it impossible for them to live unless they do so, and take away their choice of what is best for their young children.

If we believe in supporting and empowering people, we should continue benefit. If the offers of work are good enough and the child care is suitable, many women will take up the offer. That would give single parents the same sorts of choices as the better off. Otherwise, they remain "socially excluded". VALERIE FAWCETT Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Sir: There is no plan to force lone parents to work, let alone to work a nine-to-six day. Most women with young children prefer to work part-time, and

for the low-paid this is recognised in the Family Credit

When the Beveridge scheme came in after the war, we all cheered hecause lone parents were able to stay at home on income support (then called national assistance) just like most other mothers then did. But most mothers, it has turned out, did not - and do not - want to stay at home all day; they fought for the opportunity to work while they had children.

That hattle is over. It is now the mothers who are trapped on income support who need to be helped to escape from what can become a lifetime of "social exclusion" through impoverishment. PHYLLIS WILLMOTT

London N6

Sir: Poverty is one of the contributing factors to childhood behavioural disorders and their progression to later delinquency. One of New Labour's key policy areas is to be "tough

on the causes of crime". John Pearce, Professor of

University, argued at his inaugural address that if the previous government had been serious in its wish to do something about such childhood problems it would start by doubling child benefits. From my experience working in the NHS child psychiatry services I would agree.

Every £1 spent on helping childhood behavioural problems has been estimated to save £75 to £100 in later costs to society.

ALEXANDER B SETON-BROWNE Consultant Child Psychiatrist Cacrleon, Gwent

Sir: We welcome the Government's commitment to reduce poverty and tackle social and economic exclusion. Regrettahly, we note the new Social Exclusion Unit does not include a permanent member who has

direct experience of poverty. Those living in poverty are

the true experts on social exclusion. They face barriers to employment, decent wages, bahild Psychiatry at Nottingham sic health care and suitable housing. It is they who will be

most affected by the recommendations of this task force. We believe there must be a hroader consultation hetween the socially excluded and decision-makers. Substantive dialogue, and a commitment by the Government to a national poverty eradication plan, will be

more likely to yield solutions to the problems of poverty and exclusion. **EVAN METZ**

Co-ordinator UK Coalition Against Poverty London SE5

ROH budgets

Sir: The allegation that the board of the Royal Opera House never received financial information which enabled it to assess its trading position or take action on it is totally untrue (Andreas Whittam Smith,

9 December). It is also false that financial forecasts were "left on the shelf while planning procceded willy-nilly without reference to them".

During my chairmanship (and that of my predecessor) the hoard received monthly financial statements which showed up-to-date projections of the profit and loss account, with movements indicated month by month and for the full year. Adverse changes against budget were accompanied by management recommendations for action to correct or reverse such trends. These included wage restraint, cuts in overheads and, during 1996, redundancies. Production schedules were examined and if necessary adjusted; box office results and cash flow were also reviewed. All these matters received the board's close attention.

Whatever our faults of omission or commission, the serious charge that we had no proper financial information to guide us is not only a false reflection

on the hoard, hut a slur on the able and hard-working staff who provided it. Sir ANGUS STIRLING London W11

The writer was chairman of the Royal Opera House, 1991-

Doctors' morality

Sir. Phil Hammond throws up his hands in horror at the fact that medical students and doctors are susceptible to lustful thoughts and immoral actions ("Sore throat? Kindly remove your blouse and hra", 9 December). Let us not imagine that he has discovered something new. Down the years patients have often found themselves in a vulnerable position, and, sadly, members of the medical profession have

Medical Association earlier this year gave its hlessing to a revised version of the Hippocratic Oath, from which the

promise to abstain from the senecessary as ever it was. **HUGH J THOMSON**

Birmingham

PRIESTLEY

sometimes taken advantage. To its shame, the British

duction of patients has been removed. But human nature has not changed. This stricture is as Consultant Surgeon

Sir: I am told by medical acquaintances that contrary to Dr Phil Hammond's point of view. the problem in Britain is that women's hreasts are very rarely examined by doctors of either sex, and that as a result our hreast cancer fatality rate is among the highest in the developed world

I am sure that my friends and relatives who have endured breast cancer and its treatment would have opted for frequent examinations by horny young doctors for the chance of carlier detection of their illness, particularly the one who is now walking around with one hreast and no hair. BRENDA BEARY

Kyoto: just a start

Sir. We need a 60 per-cent cut in carbon-dioxide emissions just to stop the levels in the atmosphere rising. If a fug builds up in the puh on Saturday night we can open a window to let it out, but with CO2 we have to rely on reduced discharges and the long-term uptake of the gas by plants and the oceans to restore the natural halance.

The compromise target for emission cuts agreed at Kyoto represents a regrettably sluggish start to the long haul back to sauity.

TONY ROBSON Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir. Gavin Green (Motoring, 6 December) says people would be "amazed how clean a modern car's exhaust is". Many catalystequipped car drivers believe their fumes to be innocuous, but catalytic converters can never clean up all the by-products of internal combustion, principally the unburnt fuel and nitrogen oxides which interact to form ozone and smog.

Catalysts increase fuel consumption and do nothing positive at all on many typical short journeys. Drivers should recognise that the only effective way they can contribute to improving urban air quality is to leave the car at home. IAN GARMAN Cardiff

Brief encounters

Sir: One of your "Ddemmas" respondents (11 December) states that he is in his late twenties and is in a stable relationship with a man 10 years his senior who has had two lengthy marriages. If this man is in his late thirties and first got married at 18, this makes 10 years a lengthy marriage. What is a short marriage these days? MARTIN RUSSELL

Unfair test

Newcastle upon Tyne

Atting warme Sir. Hanging a kilogram weight on the end of an erect penis to... ascertain the "virility" of the subject is patently inaccurate (Column One, 5 December). The force exerted depends on the weight multiplied by distance, so that the man hiessed with 20cm has to bear twice the load of his less fortunate counterpart with only 10cm. J E SEVEN

Halesowen, West Midlands

Statistically speaking, what is the probability that you will read this column?



KINGTON

A lot of nonsense has been talked about this ban on beef business. Most of it has come from the Government, of course, but a lot has also come from commentators trying to tell us just how unlikely it is that we can get CJD from heef. There is more chance, they tell us, of choking to death on food, or being run over by a member of the

Royal Family ... This careless throwing around of stalistics is quite irresponsible, as we do not have any generally accepted standard of comparison. Oh. yes, we know vaguely that more people were killed on the roads of Britain during the Falklands War than were killed in the War and we know that it's safer to fly than to drive (come to think of it, we know that anything is safer than driving. so it's a miracle that the new Labour govcriment hasn't banned cars vet) but we don't know what the exact figures are for

We don't know whether there is more

chance of England winning the World Cup or the Pope being Jewish. So today I am printing a league table

of probability. Cut it out.

Pin it on the wall. And next time you say, "Look, there's tess chance of that happening than there is of ...", just glance at it and carry on.

Here we go then. There is a 1 in 2 chance that every government will appoint a man who insists on using the title Dr. as in Dr Brian Mawhinney or Dr Jack Cunningham, even though they are clearly not proper doctors and nobody has the faintest idea what kind of doctors they are.

There is a 1 in 3 chance that, the way the Labour government is progressing, we will have petrol rationing by next year, and the return of the black market in such vital commodities as beef, etc.

There is a 1 in 4 chance that you will

be involved in a traffic accident before you

There is a 1 in 5 chance that it will rain in Britain today.

There is a 1 in 10 chance that the weath-

er forecast will tell us where. There is a 1 in 15 chance that you will be so affected by the sight of a traffic accident that your driving improves marked-

ly, for a while, There is a 1 in 20 chance that your train will arrive late. There is a 1 in 100 chance that you will

be glad it arrived late, as you had nothing in particular to do for a while. There is a 1 in 200 chance that your train

will arrive early.

There is a 1 in 400 chance that you will he so affected by seeing a had traffic accident that you start driving much more slowly, and that this causes a bad traffic accident.

There is a 1 in 500 chance that you will

actually hear real people singing carols in the street at Christmas time.

There is a 1 in 1,000 chance that all the Christmas cards you send will arrive at their destination before Christmas.

There is a 1 in 1,500 chance that you will be able to identify the senders of all the Christmas cards you get.

There is a 1 in 5.000 chance that you will get what you want for Christmas. There is a 1 in 10,000 chance that you

will get any of the ailments which everyone from Edwina Currie onwards has predicted for you.

There is a 1 in 50,000 chance that someone will give you an Edwina Currie novel for Christmas. There is a 1 in 500,000 chance that you

will be run over in a traffic accident by a car driven by Lord Lucan. There is a 1 in 1,000,000 chance that you

will he run over by a car driven by Ronnic Biggs hack on an incognito trip to Britain.

There is a 1 in 4 million chance that you will be so affected by listeria that you dizzdy walk out into the road and are run over by a van taking remaindered Edwina Currie novels back to the wholesalers, driven by Ronnie Biggs.

There is a t in 10 million chance that someone somewhere will suddenly exclaim: "Thank you, thank you, Jack Cunningham! If it hadn't heen for your wise and swift actions. I'd probably be dead by

There is a 1 in 50 million chance that you will catch a disease from the cover of an Edwina Currie novel which causes you to swerve while driving near Holyhead, thus causing a crash in which a large lorry overturns and sheds its load of frozen Irish beefburgers on a car coming the other way, crushing the passenger who is socalled Doctor Jack Cunningham who was on his way to Holyhead on a fact-find-

19/COMMENT

Tony, Gordon: you should have been there to see it



DONALD MACINTYRE LABOUR'S LOST INNOCENCE

Amazingly, the House of Commons still matters. This exasperating, clubby, antediluvian, ludicrously nocturnal institution, is not, as it had appeared to be since 1 May, running on empty. Which comes as a surprise to all of us - including, perhaps, the Cabinet.

From Tony Blair and Gordon Brown down, the entire Cabinet showed a sort of magnificent disdain for Wednesday night's debate on lone parents by staying away from it. Instead they ungaliantly left the task of lending moral support to the embattled Harriet Harman to a neatly assembled collection of wannahes just helow Cabinet rank: Steven Byers, Alan Milburn, Peter Mandelson, Tessa Jowell. Perhaps the tradition of a Prime Minister or a Chancellor of the Exchequer demonstrating their support for a minister arguing for an unpopular policy in which they have had a direct band is an obsolete and theatrical convention, More prohably it isn't. As a result of defying it, the Government's big beasts missed something real and palpable which was happening in the Commons Chamber.

Partly, yes, what they missed was the first painful confrontation of the parliamentary Labour Party with the economic and social realities of the programme which made In this sense the loss of virginity was not so much the Government's as the party's. Blair himself has never doubted for a moment the necessary pain that welfare reform would inflict. But for many in the party, including some of the newest of New Labour MPs, it came as a deep shock to be the ones so obviously inflicting it. This was, in other words, a con- . left are already busily drawing precisely the frontation between a ruthlessly modernising wrong ones. The relative leniency with which

day night is to say that the party was always going to show its cracks and that it might as well be now. The organised Campaign Group left were bound to rebel at some point. The very fact that they did so on Wednesday night can be regarded as little more than a testimony to Blair's seriousness of purpose. Some who voted against the Government on Wednesday night, were, in every sense, old Labour MPs. The majority were men and women who still wish the Labour Party was its unelectable 1980s seif.

They may be even more dispensable than they look. First there is the size of Blair's impregnable majority, which could absorb any imaginable revolt. Second, the threat of removal of the whip, even if not carried out this time, is a potent one, since it carries deselection in its wake. And third, who knows? If electoral reform happens they may be driven off into a separate socialist party anyway. beside ber...

But this group was by no means the only problem on Wednesday night. Quite a few of those who abstained, and a much larger group who voted for the Government with self-confessedly heavy hearts, included many who regard themselves as loyal Blairites. They arrived at their decision for quite different reasons. More than 100 Labour MPs signed the letter to Gordon Brown urging a delay in the lone parents benefit cuts, including five other select committee chairmen beside Chris Mullin, its main author. Mullin himself may have a background on the Labour left, but he enthusiastically endorsed Blair's candidacy for the leadership, strongly backs the welfare to work strategy, is hawkish on law and order, and bas long since ceased to fight yesterday's battles. Those MPs, and the numerous agonising ministers who could be found on Wednesday night wishing they were elsewbere, shared a deep unease which is not conveniently dismissable as old Labour, and which concerned the specifics of the lone parents proposal, rather than the broad strategy of luring people off benefit and into work.

First, of course (unlike university tuition fees) this was a welfare reform whose impact was almost wholly on the poor. But there were also genuine doubts about the intellectual coherence of the measure. One was that the benefit cut might act as a positive disincentive to some existing lone parents to seek work (though not, and this was always important to Blair, to new ones), since anyone taking a short term or seasonal job would, once it was over, go onto a reduced level of benefit as a technically new claimant.

The objections do not mean that it would have been remotely sensible to retreat at the last minute to quell the revolt. To do so would have exploded any claim the Government had to fiscal credibility. It might, bowever, bave been possible to do so several weeks ago, before the issue came to a head. The other problem, however, was a confusion in the Government's message about what the cuts were for. On at least two occasions Ann Taylor and Harriet Harman almost apologetically said the Government did not want lo them MPs in such large numbers on 1 May. make the cuts but had no other choice because of Kenneth Clarke's tight budget limits. It was only last weekend that Blair's true message started to come through: this was an integral part of the larger Blair/Brown plan for reducing benefit dependency and getting lone mothers into work.

What are the lessons? Several on the old Government and those who do not get it. the rebels are being treated may be a par-That is not, however, quite the whole story. tial acknowledgement of the messiness of the But it does not mean that Blair bas any intention of being deterred from reducing the bloated welfare budget. Everything will be scrutinised, from disability henefit for people who don't need it, to the barriers that independent taxation of women may be puring in the way of redistributive measures like the taxation of child benefit.

> There is no doubt that Blair used up on Wednesday night some of his ample store of political capital. It can be replenished pretty fast. But welfare reform won't be achieved by stealth. He needs to speak more loudly and more often about what be is trying to do; to become more of, in Tony Benn's memorable phrase about Margaret Thatcher, a teacher-politician. Oh - and next time Harriet Harman has a bard choice to force through Parliament, Messrs Blair and Brown should consider sitting on the bench



The band your parents won't understand: Prodigy's Keith Flint (right) with Maxim, in concert this week Photograph: News Team

I'm not shocked by smacking up, just bored by boorish misogyny



SUZANNE **MOORE** ON THE **PRODIGY**

The Prodigy are very naughty boys indeed. They have succeeded in not only getting their latest video hanned -- but have even got Diane oil and her colleagues to table an early day motion in the Commons seeking to ban the posters for their single "Smack My Bitch Up".

"Smack My Bitch Lip" has heen around for nearly six months, because it is on their phenomenally successful Fat of the Land album. By releasing it as a single, another minicontroversy has been ignited.

Do these words incite violence against women? Are they even meant 10? Well, according to the group, they are not even ahout women, but refer to an intense experience. This. even in the irony-laden Nineties, is somewhat disingenuous. If the lyrics are meaningless, then they might as well have been "saw your head." off". No one seems to quite

know what to do about all this. Anyone who says they don't actually want to see posters saying Smack My Bitch Up is an uptight moralist who fails to get the hippest jokes this latest Prodigy wind-up

I have to say I don't particularly want to see these posters, and I wish that the group could have found other ways to shock that were not so inberently lazy. The confusion over how to react to all this shows that on the whole we would rather accept a certain level of misogyny than be labelled old-fashioned.

The Prodigy manage, then, to bave it both ways. They can be outrageous, while at the same time denying that what they are up to actually means though you can see it on MTV anything. They pull the same trick off in their video, which is soot from the point of view of someone on a night out. It is packed with images of drugs. drink, vomit and big breusted strippers. Full of the selfloathing and excesses of the night out in Gary Oldman's film Nil By Month, we end up realising that what seems like a gross male fantasy has actually been experienced by a

> Makes you think doesn't it? Not really, because the whole point is to make you feel, to make you identify with this long trawl for instant gratification. As Suzie Orbach commented after seeing the video, on Will Self's chat show Something of the Night, it is all about sensation. She found that disturbing sensation is what the music of The Prodigy is all about. That

is why they are a far more interesting and musically significant band than Oasis. As Qasis bave degenerated

into Dadrock they look more and more daft. Their "come or even, someone who takes and have a go if you think you are hard enough" stance has been totally blown since they stormed off stage because a plastic bottle was thrown at the knee of the guitarist. This is hardly the stuff of rock 'n' roll legend. The Prodigy meanwhile will do nicely as a band your parents won't understand. The music critics rave over their amphetamine intensity, while at the same time celebrating their glorious pantomime of twisted masculinity. Never mind the lyrics, just feel the heat in which "the dodgy politics [are] flambéed to a

> The ultra-sophisticated have always been able to excuse the misogyny of many music lyrics. From the "hos" and "bitches" of gansta rap to the vile cliches of much rock, what we are hearing, we are told, is a pose, a parody of masculinity, a warped fantasy of power from men whose own sense of themselves is in crisis. To which one can only reply, it's not funny, it's not elever and it's not

> crisp". Anyway they are really

cuddly chaps, not violent wife

even particularly new. There is also, of course. downright prejudice against certain types of music. While it was "classic rock" when Hendrix used to sing about shooting his "old lady", contemporary rappers, we feel, are something far more sinister. To reduce all this to a question of

censorship - should this song he hanned? - not only misses the point, but increases interest and sales.

Nor do I think it is possible for a mere poster to incite violence. What we have to ask ourselves is a far more complicated question. What level of misogyny is acceptable in the public domain? For while most of us won't care what The Prodigy do at their concerts, we do not want to be confronted with a "Smack My Bitch Up' poster at the bus stop.
The laddification of popu-

lar culture which has prevailed for the past five years means that many of our children have grown up in an environment in which it is perfectly normal to see pictures of naked women everywhere, to bear lewd comments about them, to laugh at the more tedious escapades of Unris Evans and general men he having hadly.

Laddishness was always more than just a reaction against political correctness, which was always misunderstood, but a flight into a regressive and infantile version of sexual difference at precisely the time when these roles were being challenged. The elevation of hedonism,

the beer and birds, and football and raves, that much laddishness invoked, obscured the reality that in fact an innately reactionary lifestyle was being a risk too far.

propagated. It is not surprising, then, that The Prodigy, wbo hrilliantly provide a soundtrack for such hedonism, declare themselves anarchists. hut end up resorting to tiredout shock tactics in order to shake things up. There is nothing radical or ground-breaking about flirting with notions of violence against women. Just listen to some hlues to hear bow it's dooe in all its gory details.

in many ways the reign of the lad appears to be coming to its own inevitable deadend. There is no way of moving on; the boorishness has become just horing. Even confused young men realise that they are more complex creatures than such a culture allows.

While Keith and Maxim, Lecroy and Liam strut their stuff chanting "smack my bitch up until the phrase is just a jumble of syllables devoid of meaning, they may well feel the rush of freedom that the best music creates. But they still bave to come down, go bome and live in a world where women will not accept being called bitches, or heing smacked up, or being told that these boys don't really mean what they say.

If The Prodigy really wanted to shock us they could try saying what they really mean. But that, of course, would be

INHOVATING · · · COMPUTING · · · PRINTING · · · · FAXING · · · · COPYING

Getting warmer, but still a long way from our goal



SCHOON THE KYOTO CLIMATE TALKS

One of the greatest journalistic satisfactions is to find out you are right after making predictions in print, even when they are other people's predictions. But I have never known if I have been right in writing dozens and dozens of articles over the past nine years on the threat of global warming. Worse still, there is a chance I will not know for an-Other dozen years, perhaps more. That is an uncomfort-

able feeling. True, the climate seems to have started changing already te to humanity's intervention on the atmosphere. But we cannot be sure. Furthermore, the credible forecasters in this business (the climate scientists. as opposed to the greens or

their opponents) tell us that we could trap heat in the atmosprobably won't have significant, barmful change until a couple of decades or more into the next century - and that it will keep on changing after that.

But current science still allows the possibility that the changes will be minor and even benign on the whole. My nightmare is that 10 years from now no one talks or cares or negotiates about global warming. That it will be seen as a silly millennial fad, blotted out by genuine global environmental crises such as waler shortages. Twenty-first century hindsight may find us baving had our eyes on the

wrong ball. There was a hitterly cold snap soon after The Independent was launched in October 1986. That prompted my first story on climate change, speculating on the possibility of a new Ice Age. I had not even heard of man-made global warming, although a few hundred scientists and environmentalists scattered thinly around the world were already taking an interest. The idea of a new lee Age was still in vogue at the time, for, in the normal. natural course of events one could come along sometime in

the next few thousand years. Soon afterwards I learnt ing coal, gas, oil and forests ready pretty clear, months thrilling. This is a subject on

phere, and so began writing the odd global warming story. Then, at the end of 1989, Margaret Thatcher made a speech on climate change which put the issue on the political map. In the US, they had a freakishly hot summer and a rising young senator called Al Gore took an interest. By the end of 1990 the handwagon was really rolling. and it was during that year that governments decided they should negotiate a climate change treaty through the United Nations.

They bad one agreed in time for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, but it was a mouse of a treaty. The Framework Convention on Climate Change gave a legal definition to the problem and asked developed countries to volunteer to stahilise their rising annual emissions at the 1990 level by 2000. The majority failed to hit this target: those that succeeded did so only by accident of economic decline or of policy changes unrelated to global warming.

Clearly another treaty was needed - one which really did stop greenhouse gas emissions rising with each passing year. accelerating the rate of climate change. That was what could and should have been negotiated in Kyoto. But it was al-

hefore delegates from more which presidents and prime than 150 countries arrived in Japan for 10 days of intense. against-the-clock negotiating, that this was not to be. Meanwhile, the science of

climate change has become stronger and deeper over the past seven years. The supercomputer models of global climate have simulated changing temperatures and rainfull more and more convincingly. Globally, the 1990s have seen the warmest years since worldwide records hegan more than 100 years ago. And, though the uncertainties remain large. and will stay that way for years, an impressive scientific consensus has emerged. Climate change has begun or, to use the cautious, painstakingly negutiated words of the Science Working Group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "The halance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate.

I was at the meeting in Madrid two years ago when they came up with that phrase. and it honestly was a thrilling moment - although my excitement was admittedly intensified by being the only British journalist there. To see opinion swing

around through the 1990s has

heen fascinating, and often

ministers have been phoning each other in the middle of the night over the past few days. An issue that was once the concern of only a tew hundred people now engages millions who think that, even in spite of the processinties, we need to reduce the risk of catastrophe and start slowing climate change now.

Along with leading politicians, every kind of expert and lubbyist and pundit now has an angle on climate change: economists, biologists, geographers, media commenlators, it has been fun to watch the doubters of the right wing think-tanks and the lossit fuel lobby shift their ground. First they said the science was baloney. Then they said the warming was so uncertain it was too early to act. Then they said that it would probably work out cheaper to do nothing about cutting emissions, and adapt to a changing elimate when it came.

Seeing the failure to take decisive action in Kyoto over the past week, however, has not been at all thrilling. The contrast between ministerial rhetoric and the hard hargaining behind closed doors is an unattractive speciacle. Years ago, in the fairly early days of global warming, I guessed that nothing which really attacked the problem would be done until well into the next century. It was a gloomy bet, but a pretty safe one. When it comes to acting now to tackle an uncertain problem which lies years in the future, and when that action involves national interests and difficult changes, and when the problem is so global that most of the 160 very different nations have to agree on what to do. decisiveness is hard to come by.

Kyoto is not the end of the road. Within a few years another treaty or an annexe will have been negotiated, and probably condemned for not doing enough. I just hope I make it compos mentis into my seventies, around 2030, enough time to find out for sure whether our predictions were far-sighted, or misconceived. If we prove to be right, let's

hope a few of the doubters are still alive so we can tell them this. To the executives of Excon 1Essa as they are known in Britain) and those of Mobil Oil, to the Australian Government, the Global Climate Coalition, the Republicans in the US Senate, the Institute of Economic Affairs in Britain. and to all you others who did your best to stop a decent, cffeetive treaty being negotiated in Kvoto: you self-interested,

Free with the L300 Faxes.

If you buy a Canon L300 fax before the end of January 1998. you'll get a free FX-3 toner cartridge. That's a lot of extra output without the extra outlay. For more information, please treephone 0500 246 246.

> GUA DOY CANON CAN.

Canon

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL IOURNAL OF THE YEAR

World markets spooked by fresh S Korean crisis

The economic crisis in South Korea deepened yesterday. after leading credit agencies slashed their ratings for South Korea debt. Stephen Vines in the Far East and Diane Coyle in London report on how growing concerns about South Korea's financial stability prompted a mass self-off throughout the world's stock markets.

The FTSE tumbled by 94.8 points yesterday to close at 5035.9 after a day's heavy share trading. At one stage in the day, the FTSE was 131 points down. The share fall, which was mirrored in stock markets worldwide, was prompted by the worsening crisis in South Korea.

Overnight, the won, the Korean currency fell by its maximum daily limit of 10 per cent But commentors believe to a record low against the dollar in just a few minutes. And concerns that the Korean authorities are failing to tackle the crisis were underlined yesterday by news that two leading credit agencies, Moody's and Standard & Poor's (S&P), had sharply downgraded the country's credit ratings.

The latest wave of stock market selling was prompted by fears that the International Monetary Fund's \$57bn (£35bn) rescue package will be insufficient to meet the country's short-term debt obligations. Korea's short-term overseas dehts are now estimated at \$100bn. Although some of this reflects lending hetween branches of Korean hanks and companies, some \$40bn is thought to need

refinancing before the end of

Standard & Poor's has put Korea on a BBB-minus rating, one rank above junk bond status. Spokesman John Chambers said it had placed the country on a negative credit watch, and would decide within the next few weeks whether to announce a further ratings downgrade.

Standard & Poor's followed an overnight decision by rival agency Moody's Investors Service, which lowered its rating on South Korea's foreign debt and also downgraded the ratings of 31 Korean companies.

Officials acknowledge that the IMF's package will only succeed if South Korea undertakes financial and economic reforms. To this end, a special session of congress is due to agree later this month to give the central bank more independence, improve financial supervision, and legislate for commercial companies to produce properly audited consolidated accounts.

that Korea needs to do much more to tackle its long term problems. Much of Korea's foreign debt is owed by the big industrial conglomerates, whose average debt to equity ratio is above 300 per cent. As a result, a sharp economic slowdown, expected by many experts next year, will push many companies into bankruptcy. According to investment bank JP Morgan, 15,000 companies have already filed

for bankruptcy in 1997. Even though this was the first day in which foreign buyers were permitted to purchase up to 50 per cent of listed companies shares, overseas buyers were keeping well away. One broker described the decision to open the market further to foreigners,

a few days ahead of schedule, as another Korean joke".

Whilst his country's economic crisis was deepening by the minute. President Kim Young-sam addressed the nation on television. Looking sombre, he said: "I cannot find the right words to apologise". This is not his first attempt to take the hlame for Korea's financial chaos. He also apologised for the national humiliation of having to accept the IMF's rescue package.

The crisis of confidence in the Korean economy was not helped by uncertainties surrounding next Thursday's presidential election. The leading opposition candidate Kim Dae-jung has promised that be will renegotiate the deal with the IMF if be wins. Mr Kim is a veteran campaigner who could pull off victory in the volatile atmosphere now prevailing in Korea.

Even if he does not win, a high vote for Mr Kim will put pressure on the new executive to adopt a more aggressive stance in Korea's already fraught dealings with the IMF.

The news from Korea was sufficient to trigger an outbreak of jitters across the region. Malaysia, where the stock market dived by some 7 per cent, was worst-affected, as the government warned of bank closures. In Hong Kong blue chip share prices slid back by almost 5.5 per cent as interest rates started to rise again and there was renewed talk of pressure on the Hong Kong dollar.

Ironically the stock market most affected by the Korea crisis, the Japanese market, responded the least negatively. The key Nikkei 225 index shed just 2.5 per cent of its value, and this was mainly related to Japanese domestic considerations.

Lucas Varity yesterday

announced the sale of its

VarityPerkins diesel engine

subsidiary to Caterpillar, the

US engine maker for \$1.3bn.

Peter Thal Larsen finds that the

deal will give the automotive

and aerospace engineer

A South Korean man is dwarfed by a huge bilihoard hanging from the Korea Exchange Bank building advising customers to help the nation's economy by opening foreign Outlook, page 21 currency accounts in Seoul.

South Korea's battered banking system got more bad news yesterday after Moody's Investors' Service downgraded the country's foreign currency ceilings for bonds, notes and

Photograph: Paul Barker/Reuter takeover of several US utilities

PowerGen eyes £3.5bn strike for Cinergy of the US

PowerGen is contemplating a £3.5bn strike for the American electricity utility Cinergy in a deal which would give it a 50 per cent stake in Midlands Electricity, the UK regional power company. Michael Harrison reports.

Ed Wallis, PowerGen's chairman, is understood to be ready to make his move as soon as the Government gives the power generators the green light to expand into electricity distribution

and supply.

The Department of Trade and Industry is expected to in-. dicate whether it will sanction funher venical integration in the sector when it gives its ruling on PacifiCorp's £3.7bn bid for Energy group, owner of Eastern Electricity, early in the

New Year. PowerGen is understood to have examined buying out one of the 50 per cent stakes beld in Midlands by Cinergy and GPU, who joined together as Avon Energy Partners to acquire Midlands for £1.73bn in May last year.

The US takeover followed the previous government's decistum to block a bid for Midlands by PowerGen and National Power's agreed takeover of Southern Electric.

Now, PowerGen is believed to have concluded that its strategy would be best served by acquiring one of the two US parent companies. This would give it exposure to both the American power market and the UK electricity supply industry as the domestic market is opened to full competition from next April.

but there are complications with a number of them since they own nuclear generating capacity which it is not interested in.

Cinergy, however, is a pure fossil-fuel generator. It owns an operates 11,000 megawatts of coal and gas fired generating plant in the mid-West. Headquartered in Cincinnati, it serves 1.3 million electricity customers and 434,000 gas consumers in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky and bas a market capitalisation of \$5.4bn. It has 8,000 employees and made a net income of \$340m on revenues of \$3.2bn last year.

Cinergy is one of seven or eight US utilities examined by PowerGen and although a final decision bas not yet been taken, it is thought to be the group's favoured takeover tar-

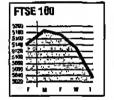
Mr Wallis refused to com ment on PowerGen's intentions but it is well known than he would like to acquire an interest in a UK regional electricity company.

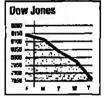
PowerGen executives vehemently deny suggestions, however, that it has offered the Government a deal to stop coal closures in return for the green light to own a Rec. The Prime Minister Tony Blair and nounced on Tuesday that the nounced on Tuesday that the three main generators had agreed a deal with RJB Mining to avert the threat of pit closures and redundancies for the next six months.

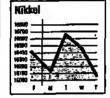
The deal has yet to he thrashed out in detail but is likely to involve the three generators taking an extre 7-8 million tonnes of coal on top of contracts so far signed, either to burn or stockpile. So far National Power and Eastern have agreed to take 12 million tonnes from RJB next financial year while PowerGen has contract-PowerGen has examined the ed to buy 4.5 million tonnes :- . 4: from other UK coal producers.

1.07

76.5 100000



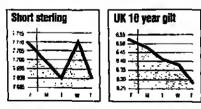


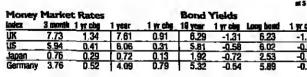


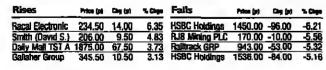
Indices

| Index | Close | Change | Change(%) | 52 wit bigh | 52 wk low | Yield(% |
|----------------|----------|---------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| FTSE 100 | 5035.90 | -94.80 | -1.65 | 5367.30 | 3933,90 | 3.49 |
| FTSE 250 | 4753.80 | -15.50 | -0.33 | 4963.80 | 4347.30 | 3.43 |
| FTSE 350 | 2427.60 | -38.40 | -1.56 | 2570.50 | 1958.10 | 3.48 |
| FTSE All Share | 2371.64 | -35.52 | -1.48 | 2507.66 | 1946.17 | 3.48 |
| FTSE SmallGao | 2298.80 | -6.30 | -0.27 | 2407.40 | 2127.50 | 3.46 |
| FTSE Fledgling | 1249.90 | -2.40 | -0.19 | 1346.50 | 1203.20 | 3.42 |
| FTSE AIM | 973.70 | 3.00 | 0.31 | 1138.00 | 965.90 | 1,10 |
| Dow Jones | 7852.22 | -125.08 | -1.80 | 8299.03 | 6236.05 | 1.74 |
| Nikkel | 16050.15 | -427.97 | -2.60 | 20910.79 | 14966.13 | 0.96 |
| Hang Seng | 10420.22 | -602.19 | -5.46 | 16820.31 | 8775.66 | 4.07 |
| Dax | 4030.16 | -87.11 | -2.12 | 4459.89 | 2797.54 | 1,98 |

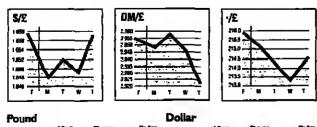
INTEREST RATES







CURRENCIES



1.6565 Sterling 0.6034 -0.26p 0.6037

2.5421 D-Mark 1.7634 -2.06pf 1.5371

129.47 +Y0.62

92.90 \$ index OTHER INDICATORS

214.57 +¥1.96

| " pt 5 pm | Clean | Clig | Yr Age | | Index | Che | Yr ago | Hext figs |
|---------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|------|--------|-----------|
| Brent Oll (S) | 16.81 | -0.07 | 22.08 | GDP | 113.90 | 3.80 | 109.7 | Jan |
| Gold (\$) | 284.05 | -1.10 | 368.85 | RPI | 159.80 | 3.7 | 153.91 | Nov |
| Silver (S) | 6.05 | 0.21 | 4.86 | Base F | lates | 7.25 | 6.00 | |

187.39 Yen

a sizeable war chest with which to beef up its remaining businesses.

US long bond

Although the offer from Caterpillar had been unsolicited, the \$1.32bn (£803m) price tag made it impossible for Lucas Varity to refuse. "The price beat our own internal valuation of the division, so it was right to sell it," said chief operating officer Tony

Nevertheless, the sale contradicts the strategy mapped out for the business when Lucas and Varity announced their merger just eighteen months ago. At the time, chief executive Victor Rice claimed that VarityPerkins would henefit from sourcing Lucas's fuel injection systems. He said joint research & development initiatives between the two divisions would "result in cost savings and enable the two businesses to compete more effectively on a global scale."

At the time, Mr Rice also predicted that VarityPerkins's sales would almost double to £1.3bn by the year 2000.

Last night, Mr Gilroy admitted that those targets were no longer attainable, "VarityPerkins' sales and margins are not as strong as expected," he said. However, he claimed that this was mainly due to the

Racal Electronics to split in two

by floating telecoms business

VarityPerkins more heavily than the rest of the group.

Lucas Varity sells diesel engines business for \$1.3bn

Lucas Varity's third quarter results. which were also released vesterday. support that view. In the three months to September, the group's Diesel Engines division produced opcrating profits of £13m on sales of £157m - lower than in the second quarter, and roughly in line with the pro-forma figures for the third quarter of 1996.

Lucas Varity also said that more stringent environmental controls of diesel engines had prompted it to sell

VarityPerkins largely produces diesel engines for off-highway vebicles like earth-moving equipment, which have historically enjoyed less stringent emissions requirements. But environmental legislation is prompting the technology used in off-

strength of sterling, which had hit highway diesel engines to converge with the engines used in trucks and cars. "We concluded it would have been very challenging to develop a major on-highway business organically," said Mr Rice, adding that building a position through acquisitions was not economically viable.

Investors welcomed the sale, pushing up Lucas Varity shares 1.5p to 192.5p in a falling market. "VarityPerkins was always the likeliest disposal candidate. It wasn't really a surprise." said Tim Bennett, engineering analyst at investment bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. He added that at a multiple of 19 times forecast carnings and 1.2 times expected sales, Lucas Varity had secured a good price for the business.

Industry observers now expect Lucas Varity to use the proceeds of the sale to strengthen its aerospace and automotive businesses. After tax and

transaction costs, the group expects the disposal to bring in "in excess of £400m." That would reduce its net deht, which stood at £496m on 31 Oc 7 tober, to under £100m. But Mr Gilroy confirmed that the group would be comfortable with current levels of interest cover, suggesting that Lucas-Varity could afford a hig deal.

Since the merger, it has added to its aerospace businesses while also making three bolt-on acquisitions for its braking division. Speculation that the group was lining up an acquisition was heightened when it confirmed that it would not be accelerating the share huyback program which has seen it buy in 3 per cent of its equity this year. "The last thing this company wants to do is stick with cash," one expert explained. "The logical conclusion. would be that they've got something

Triplex Lloyd shares soar

Racal Electronics, the engineering group led by Sir Ernest Harrison, is to split itself in two by floating its Racal

Telecoms business and selling the loss-making data communications division. The break-up marks the third time in a decade that the Racal empire has been restructured.

Michael Harrison reports.

The decision to float Racal Telecoms follows the group's failure to find a trade buyer prepared to pay a high enough price. The husiness is expected to be valued at anywhere between £500m and £1bn when it is listed.

However, no timetable bas been set for the flotation nor has Racal decided what proportion of the husiness will be sold off or bow the proceeds will be used.

Sir Ernest said: "We were

seeking partnerships for Racal Telecoms which might enhance the business and we received many interesting offers but did not believe any of them gave

shareholder value." The data communications business, which employs 2,500 and made a loss of £18.4m in the first balf of the year, will be disposed of in the next three to six months.

The investment bank Goldman Sachs is handling the sale and has already received several expressions of interest. Racal would not be drawe on whether it would make a profit from the disposal.

The data business has assets worth £223m, of which £90m is in the form of property and finance lease receivables. But the sale will result in a goodwill write back of £112m

provisions for restructuring. Together telecoms and data communications have sales of about £600m a year. Once they are separated out, the remainder of the group consisting of defence electronics and the a network huilt around the

what is possible."

Racal Telecoms is a business

and further unquantified

instrumentation, recording and national rail network. It is simsurvey business with sales of ilar to Energis, which the Na-£550m and annual profits of tional Grid floated earlier this week for £846m. However, This is the third radical re-Racal executives would not be

organisation of the Racal group drawn on the likely valuation of under Sir Ernest. He demerged their husiness. Racal Telecom was created the mobile telephone business Vodafone in September, 1991. through the combination of The day after that, Williams Racal's existing business tele-Holdings made an unsuccesscoms division and British Rail ful hostile hid for the remain-Telecom, which it hought for der of the group. After fending £140m two years ago. In the six off Williams he then demerged months to 10 October it made the locks business Chubb in Oca profit of £16.5m on sales of £140m. Sales growth slowed to tober 1992. Its value then was £366m. Williams subsequently 2 per cent during the period bebought Chubb earlier this year cause of reduced income from the network of National Lottery paying three times that amount Sir Ernest, 71, who joined

terminals and lower railway the group the year after it was founded in 1950, refused to be About half its business drawn on whether this latest comes from contracts with the corporate restructuring would privatised rail companies. be his swansong, saying: "This Other customers include W H company has a lot of share-Smith, Heinz, ICI. Zeneca and holder value yet to be released a range of government deand I would very much like to parlments be around to ensure we achieve

Racal blamed the escalating losses in data communications on delays in new product telecoms operator which uses

on takeover approach

Shares in Triplex Lloyd soared 15 per cent to 263.5p yesterday after the engineering group revealed it was in talks which could lead to a hid being made for the company at about 280p a share.

Speculation about a possible bid for Triplex has been raging tempt to buy William Cook, the for several days. The predator for several days. The predator is rumoured to be Doncasters, offer was trumped by a many several days. The predator castings group, taucu waste and continue to the Doncasters of the predator and industrial engineer whose shares are quoted on the New York Stock Exchange.

However lan Dillamore, Doncaster's chairman, refused in global markets. The group to comment on the speculation. I have nothing to say. There is no present or impending announcement," he said.

According to sources close to Triplex Lloyd, discussions are continuing but a deal is not im-

Triplex Lloyd has been contingroup over disagreements 154p. However, they soon re-Outlook, page 21 around the market, forcing the £17m.

company to announce in October that it had been in talky that had subsequently ended after the had subsequently ended af

agree a price.
Triplex's strategy bas been in offer was trumped by a management bid backed by venture agment bid backed by ventures capital group Electra Fleming Triplex bad argued that the ac quisition would give it me compete ical mass it needed to compete s exports have also been burt by the strong pound.

Triplex has yet to find a pearmanent replacement for Lockyer. Finance director Bob Mitchell has been acting chief executive since July.

Analysts suggested that in-Speculation about a bid for vestors would be happy to accept an offer pitched at 280p a uing since July, when chief ex- share, but stressed that the ecutive Graham Lockyer left the company was basically sound. Despite the pressures of cur about strategy. The shares rency, recent interim results promptly touched a new low of were ahead of expectations, prompting brokers to upgrade . bounded as bid rumours swirled full-year profit forecasts to

حكمة من الاجل

21/BUSINESS

Sen eyes strike for y of the U

OUTLOOK ON THE BID FOR CHRISTIE'S, THE CRISIS IN SOUTH KOREA, AND THE FLOTATION OF RACAL TELECOM

Why Christie's is better off privately owned

Auction houses have never had a particularly comfortable existence as publicly quoted companies. Their earnings are cyclical and unpredictable, and their main asset - their experts - tend to be people of fragile ego and a willingness to walk at the slightest prompting. Moreover, the husiness has changed in a way which makes the generally quite inflexible capital resources of a publicly quoted company inappropriate to the task of selling

So it is hardly surprising that both Christie's, and to a fesser extent Sotheby's, should find themselves in play right now. Both are in truth probably much more suited to private ownership than the publicly quoted sector. Surprisingly, the most important reason for this is not the one most often cited - that tich people are prone to aspire to such husinesses because of

These days, the hig vendors expect to have their collections underwritten, they expect the auction house's valuation to be guaranteed when the collection is put up for sale, so that they achieve the reserve even if it is not reached. Few publicly quoted companies can justify taking such risks with their shareholders' money, and indeed Sotheby's recently lost a packet on such a transaction. Even in today's sophisticated financial markets, it would be difficult to underwrite these things on a case by case basis."

Obviously, the auction house in a position to guarantee the vendor is much better placed to win the business. Returns from auctioneering could thus theoretically

has admitted to on off, and now on again, talks with a mystery predator. We still don't know who it is, but it seems likely that the above is what this is all about.

Christie's has hired Merrill Lynch alongside its traditional merchant bank adviser, Hambros - presumably with the intention of holstering its defences or finding an alternative. It may be too late for that. The question is no longer about whether Christie's remains an independent, publicly quoted company. Rather it is about the price at which the company goes private. Given the bind it finds itself in, that's unlikely to be much of a

No more money for South Korea

There is probably no alternative solution to South Korea's ever-deepening crisis but to throw a large quantity of international money at it. The trouble is that the \$57bn of IMF and other credit already doled out may not be enough, as the markets were beginning to anticipate yesterday. Nor is there any certainty that this hastily arranged package will in practice huy sufficient reform in South Korea to tackle its deep rooted structural faults. Would it not have been better in the long run to have allowed Korea to go to the

A number of conditions have been at-

is not much evidence of South Korea taking real responsibility for its economic ills. Nor, given the haste with which this package was agreed, can the IMF have any more than a superficial understanding of the nature and scale of South Korea's difficulties. No real banker would lend on such terms, and there must be more than a chance the IMF will end up regretting

There is scarcely any point in the IMF and other lenders stumping up the emergency loan unless it leads to root and branch reform. All it achieves is a bail-out of the banks and other financial institutions that have lent to South Korea.

The Mexican crisis that exploded at the end of 1994 offers a good parallel. It took two months for the terms of its international rescue package to be agreed. But that stand-by loan of \$50bn, settled in early February 1995, did not stabilise the peso. It went on to lose another third of its vatue on the foreign exchanges.

The currency only stopped falling once the Mexican Government admitted its mistakes, set in place new budget and privatisation policies, and said there would be a recession. After a year in the doldrums, the economy has since recovered, and Mexico never drew all of the emergency loan. It even repaid money ahead of schedule.

There has been a grovelling apology from the Korean President over the scale of the crisis and some rotten investment hanks have been closed. But essentially there has been no Mexican style mea cul-

be greatly enhanced in the hands of those with access to limitless capital. Christie's is not much evidence of South Korea taking there be ahead of next week's president own decisions. there be ahead of next week's presidential election. The question is whether whoever is installed then will make it plain that badly needed reform of the hanking system and corporate sector will take place. The precedent set by worker unrest-a year ago over modest proposals for labour market reform is not encouraging.

If South Korea does remain unwilling to hite the bullet, it will call into question the purpose of the emergency loan. The IMF is proud of its ability to respond quickly to crises, but this year it has all but exhausted its emergency fund with credits for Thailand and Indonesia as well as Korea. It should not have been so swift

to agree to the Korean request. Now that it has done so, it finds itself in an awkward situation. Should it carry on disbursing the loan even if the country does not implement the tough conditions properly, throwing good money after bad? Or should it halt the loan whatever the political and economic consequences of doing so?

In the end, it boils down to how much worse the repercussions for the rest of the world economy and financial system would he if the Koreans had to fend for themselves. Would the resulting loan defaults and turmoil in Asian and other emerging markets fatally damage the international banking system or plunge the OECD into recession? Probably not is the answer, The IMF must be boping beyond hope that the Korean government will do enough to meet its eonditions. But if it does not, it should

Racal's third reincarnation

Racal Electronics may not hear the name of Sir Ernest Harrison but it ought to. He has been synonymous with its evolution over the last 47 years and there seems to be no end to the amount of shareholder value that the wily old hird thinks he can wring out of the business before hanging up his boots.

At the age of 71 he is about to preside over the group's third re-incarnation in less than a decade. The first rebirth came in 1991 when he demerged the cellular telephone business Vodafone (having floated a minority stake three years earlier) while simultaneously beating off a hostile hid from Nigel Rudd of Williams Holdings. The second came with the demerger of the Chulh locks business a year later. Now Racal Electronics, as the shrunken empire is known, is re-inventing itself again by floating off the business telecoms arm and selling data communications.

Shareholders can hardly grumble at the first two demergers. Vodafone has tripled in value since demerger while Chubh went for three times the price when Sir Nigel returned with his knighthood and an agreed hid this year. Optimists think Racal Telecom might be worth £1bn if Energis can float for £850m. But a more realistic price might be nearer £600m given that telecoms companies and public listings do not make happy bedfellows.

Cassidy ousted as Liberty family feud reaches bitter climax

Denis Cassidy was yesterday ousted from his post as chairman of the luxury department store Liberty in the bloody climax of a bitter feud among members of the store's founding family. As Andrew Verity reports, Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty united with her former nemesis, corporate financier Brian Myerson, to vote out Mr Cassidy.

The Stewart-Liberty family as yesterday attacked by members of a rival branch of the Liberty dynasty for "trampling on the Liberty flower" as it staged a shareholders' coup against a chairman who said his real sin was to be too independent to tolerate.

Rebel shareholders led by Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty, a descendant of the store's founder, gained 10.9 million votes in favour of three resolutions to remove Mr Cassidy and install Brian Myerson, a South African corporate financier, and Odile Griffith. Mrs Stewart-Liberty's financial liviser, as directors. Votes

against totalled 8.7m. Andrew Garety, a serving director who has been appointed chairman in Mr Cassidy's place, said: "The Board regrets the departure of Denis Cassidy, who has played a vital part in leading the team

d shares soar

approach

that has turned the husiness around. It is my first concern that we try to avoid further disruption to Liberty."

A decision to abstain by the Merchant Navy Ratings' Pension Fund, which holds a 5 per cent stake in the store, assured Mr Myerson and Odile Griffith, Mrs Stewart-Liberty's financial adviser, victory. They won a resolution to oust Mr Cassidy with a majority of votes cast. Two further resolutions, giving non-executive directorships to Mr Myerson and Ms Griffith, were also car-Sitting stoney-faced at yes-

terday's egm with Mr Myerson. Mrs Stewart-Liherty resisted repeated calls to tell other shareholders her corporate strategy. The two this year reconciled past differences to form a "Concert Parwhich controls 47 per cent of shareholders' votes at the London-hased department

In a swipe at Mr Myerson, Anthony Blackmore, a shareholder descended from another member of the Liberty clan, said: "It is quite unaeceptable that Mr Myerson and his colleagues should decfine to say what they intend to do. I don't think [Myerson] is qualified to sit in the boardroom. I want to improve Liberty by retailing and not by pushing hits of paper around the City." Another shareholder said of Mr Myerson's silence: "This is a very arro-

gant way to hehave." Facing the prospect of being removed as chairman, Denis Cassidy, a former chief executive of Bhs, accused the rebel shareholders of seeking to acquire control of Liberty without paying a premium. "The real victim here is not me but the company, corporate governance and shareholder democracy.

He added that both Mrs Stewart-Liberty and Mr Myerson had failed to honour assurances given as a condition of his appointment that they would not interfere with the running of the business. *Perhaps, in their view, I am too independent," he said.

Mr Cassidy also warned that the four other members of the hoard, who have given him unanimous support. would reject a demand, floated by the Concert Party. for Mr Myerson and Ms Griffith to become co-chairmen. The latest episode of the

family feud at Liberty was ostensibly over a plan hy the hoard to expand the company's flagship Regent Street store. The plan was to utilise 50,000 square feet of unused space to compete with West End rivals such as Harrods and Harvey Nichols.

Mr Myerson and Mrs Stewart-Liberty claimed to be annoved at the £43m investment required, against Liherty's market capitalisation of £07m. They have also objected to the closing of regional hranches. Mr Cassidy yesterday said Mr Myerson had backed hoth the branch closures and the size of investment.

Harvey Nichols shares slump



Harvey Nichols, the Knightsbridge department store made famous by Edina and Patsy from 'Absolutely Fabulous' (right), had an absolutely ghastly day yesterday as news of a slowdown in pre-Christmas sales wiped almost II per cent off its value. Shares in the company slumped 23p to 193p as the company reported that sales growth in the first nine weeks of the second half had slowed to only 3 per cent. Joseph Wan, the group's colourful chief executive, called the performance 'disappointing', but said that he was still 'optimistic' about the Christmas period. While trading at group's new store in Leeds is improving, sales at the flagship Knightsbridge shop are slowing, leading to the likelihood of sharp markdowns in the january sales, said Mr

Wan. Part of the problem is the strong pound which has deterred overseas customers from spending. The retailer makes around a fifth of its sales from outside the UK. The news of disappointing current sales growth came as the company reported a 24 per cent rise in first half turnover to £60.9m and pre-tax profits 10 per cent ahead to £6.1m, boosted by a first time contribution from the Oxo Tower restaurant and a full year's trading from the Leeds shop. Mr Wan said he planned to open another two department stores in the UK and a further four restaurants. Mr Wan said he was 'within a few months' of announcing the next department store, which will be located either in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle or Manchester. Investment column, page 24

Exports pick up despite the strength of sterling

Export orders have improved despite the strength of sterling, according to the latest business survey. This brighter-than-expected picture on the industrial front contrasted with other reports hinting at a gloomier consumer outlook, says Diane Coyle, Economics Editor.

Manufacturers' order books bave returned to their bealthiest level since August 1995, the Confederation of British Industry reported yesterday. Domestic orders remained strong while export orders picked up from their depressed level.

The CBI said the strong pound was still hitting exports. But it admitted: "The sharp deterioration in order books recorded in the middle of the year seems to have been balted."

The balance of manufacturers surveyed saving overseas orders had risen rather than tallen was minus 29 per cent, a hit less deep into negative terntory than November's minus 34 per cent balance. The balance reporting an increase rather than a decrease in total orders climbed to plus 2 per cent from minus 3 per cent. Sudhir Junankar, a CBI economist, said the slight improvement in export demand provided a welcome breathing space for

hard-pressed exporters". Some City economists were far more upbeat. Adam Cole at James Capel said: "This may be the first sign that the worst is over for exporters."

While others shared the CBI's caution, all agreed that the latest results did little to ebange the Bank of England's interest rate calculation. If interest rates do increase further, as widely expected, it is unlikely to take place until some time after the New Year when the Bank has more evidence on how fast the economy has expanded in the final quarter of 1997.

According to the monthly CBI survey of industrial trends. the modest improvement in orders did little to boost husiness optimism. The expected output halance improved a shade to 10 per cent from 9 per cent last month, although the increase would be greater adjusted for the normal seasonal downturn in December.

Manufacturers' expectations of pushing through price rises also increased slightly. But this too reflects the normal seasonal anticipation of raising list prices in the New Year - an expectation which has been disappointed in recent years.

Mr Junankar said the inflation outlook remained very promising. Kevin Darlington, an economist at ABN-Amro. agreed. "Core producer output price inflation should remain muted," he said.

Figures earlier this week showed that the benefits of low inflation at the factory gate had not fed through fully to the high street. Retail price inflation last month remained at a two-year high.

The economy is expected to slow in 1998, but opinions differ as to whether this will he marked enough to make additional increases in the cost of horrowing unnecessary.

Co-op revamps but rules out sell-offs

The Co-op has completed its strategic Freview, more than six months after Andrew Regan failed in his £1bn break-up bid for the group. No businesses will be sold but costs will be cut and the emphasis shifted more towards convenience stores than major supermarkets. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society said the shake-up should help focus management thinking and investment priorities. Management also hopes that the inview will help change the Coup's image as an old-fashioned, lumbering under achiever. Amounting the changes,

the CWS chief executive Graham Melmoth said: "Now that the distractions of the first half of 1997 are behind us, we can set our agenda and focus the CWS on a new direction." The decision not to discard

any of the Co-op's disparate array of businesses means it will retain interests in food retailing. funerals, farming, travel, hanking, insurance and opticians. However a number of

changes will be made: No more superstores will be developed and the CWS's 20 superstores may be sold if their performance does not improve. Rival superstore groups have already been huving some stores

from the Co-op movement. • The number of food-hased convenience stores will be increased from the current 50 outlets to 300-350. No cost of this programme has been released. • The 300 mid-sized supermarkets will be retained and the

Co-op will continue to concentrate these outlets on markets towns. The Co-op dividend card will

be rolled out nationally to all of the group's 700 food stores in the New Year and to other husinesses on a trial hasis. · Around £10m of costs will be

cut from the CWS supermarket supply chain, which is seen as inefficient compared to the major supermarkets groups. Additional funds will be allocated to the CWS operations in funerals, farming and travel, which have been under-

invested. It plans to grow mar-

ket share in funerals.

 Several management changes have been made, including the appointment of Malcolm Hepworth as retail controller. He replaces Allan Green, who was sacked for his part in Andrew Regan's break-up bid last spring. Mervyn Pedeliv, recently appointed chief executive of the

Co-operative Bank, will join the CWS executive with responsibility for financial services.

Commenting on the review The Stock Exchange CWS director Bill Shannon said a reshaped, better performing Co-op would help protect the business from the unwanted approaches of predators such as Andrew Regan, The best way of deterring another Andrew Regan is to show that we can add real value by being a Co-op. We are not relying on rule changes to proteet us. We intend to demonstrate that there is a clear difference hetween the Co-op approach and those of others."

Graham Melmoth added: "The CWS will play to its strengths and haild on those well with their peers." The review was undertaken by LEK, the corporate strategy group and BDDH, the communications consultants.

New Year's Eve manipulation of FTSE price manipulation. following Eve, traditionally a very thin claims last week that two JP

moved yesterday to tackle problems with Sets, its new electronic order driven trading system. It has modified New Year's Eve trading rules, and intends to crack down on market abuse. Lea Paterson reports.

The London Stock Exchange will close at 12.10pm on New Year's Eve, the same time as the London International Financial and Futures Exchange (Liffe) husinesses which benchmark and 20 minutes earlier than usual. A special pricing formula will be used on New Years' Eve to

calculate closing prices. The Eychange is also planning to strengthen its rules on Morgan traders had tried to fix the FTSE 100 index.

Stock Exchange moves to thwart

Yesterday's decision was prompted by heavy criticism of Sets, the order-driven trading system launched at the end of October. At certain times of the day, particularly in the late afternoon and early morning, very few orders are placed on the Exchange's new order book and very few trades are conducted. This socalled tack of liquidity makes it easier for a small number of trades to distort the FTSE 100 index. In particular, there have been several instances of "rogue", or unrepresentative, closing prices, both for individual stocks and for

the FTSE itself. Concerns had been voiced that if the level of the FTSE were distorted on New Year's

trading day, there could be serious finanical repercussions. Closing New Year's Eve prices are used, among other things, to calculate fund valuations,

The Exchange took two steps yesterday to try and head off the problem of rogue closing prices on December 31. First, the Exchange will shut at the same time as Liffe. Typically, trading is particularly thin on the London stock market once Liffe has shut.

Second, the Exchange plans to use a special formula to calculate closing New Year's Eve prices. This formula will "enable the Exchange to strike out anomalous closing prices for the purpose of valuation and index calculation," the Exchange said vesterday in a statement.

Final details of the formu-

la will not he revealed before next week, after the Exchange has had an opportunity to consult with market particpants. But it is thought that the formula will he similar to the "uncrossing" that happens at the beginning of the trading day. At 8.30am an "uncrossing" process matches all buy and sell orders inputted between 8am and 8.30am against one another. A similar process at the end of the day should help prevent trades being executed at rogue prices.

The Exchange also moved yesterday to tighten up its rules on market manipulation. At present, when there is an illiquid market noking it easy to distort the FTLE conditions are ripe for marke. Tuse, as illustrated by claims of FTSF manipulation two weeks ago,

Pfizer creates 1,000 jobs but Siemens thinks again in Tyneside

Pfizer, the US drugs giant, confirmed yesterday that it is investing £109m in a new research facility in Sandwich, Kent in a government backed move which will create 1,000 new British jobs in the next five years. However, Siemens, the German engineering and electronics glant, has abandoned plans to create up to 600 more jobs at its computer chip plant on North Tyneside after a new crash in global semi-conductor prices. Sameena Ahmad in London and Chris Godsmark in Munich report.

Pfizer's decision to expand its existing research facility in Kent was hailed by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, as "a vote of confidence" for inward

investment into Britain. She said attracted far more of the world's has squeezed more production the investment by Pfizer showed "Britain's historic science base

really is a priceless asset". Pfizer which receives a £3m grant from the Department of Trade and a £2.5m contribution from English Partnerships is considering an additional £241m investment in the next three years to expand its research facilities, and for a new manufacturing plant and warehousing. Ken Moran, chairman of Pfizer Limited, the UK subsidiary of the US group called the UK was "the healthcare innovation centre of Europe."

Ms Beckett defended her decision to award the £3m grant even though Pfizer has been operating in the UK since 1951 and already employs 3,400 people. "Pfizer could have put its investment in a number of other countries including the US," she said. Pfizer said the grant was a "significant factor", in its decision to expand in the UK.

Though Ms Beckett boasted yesterday that Britain "has up a new plant." Instead Siemens rency from October, 1999.

inward investment than any com- out of the first hall, opened by the parable country of its size," not Queen in May. everything is going the Government's way. When Siemens revealed its £1.1bn investment

creating 1,800 new jobs in one of the UK's most depressed regions. But as work began on the site, the price of computer memory chips crashed by as much as 80 per cent, forcing the compamy to review its world wide inplans. When semi-conductor prices staged a 30 per cent recovery in the spring, Siemens pledged to press ahead with the second stage of the plant.

programme for Tyneside in 1995

the original intention was to

build two manufacturing halls,

"It's always been a cyclical mar- to adopt voluntarily the euro for ket and the cycle is now at a low transactions with Siemens UK point, a trough. That is why it would not have been wise to start their accounts in the single cur-

But the group pointed yesterday

Heinrich von Pierer.

to a new slide in prices.

The move follows hot on the heels of the decision by Samsung. the Korean clongomerate, to cancel £350 million expansion plans at its Teesside manufacturing base. Toyota also confirmed this week that it had chosen France and not Britain as the site to build a new small car.

The chip price crash took its toll on Siemens results yesterday with profits at its semi-conductor divisions in the year to September dropping from DM603m to DM109m Siemens's overall profits in its 150th anniversary year nive 5 per cent after tax to DM2.6bn.

It also emerged that the company has delayed for six months olding single currency seminars with many of its 13,000 UK Siemens's chief executive, said: suppliers. They have been asked companies, which will prepare



Margaret Beckett: Pfizer's decision hailed as 'a vote of confidence' for inward investment into Britain

Visit your local Time Showroom for the UK's Best PC Deal

Choose a personal computer from your local Time showroom and you'll get the best value for money in the land.

We make all our PCs in the UK

We design and make all the PCs we sell including our award winning Colossus and Omega brands. We manufacture in Britain, employing over 700 staff, and can incorporate the latest PC technology to give you better specifications at lower prices.

We cut out the middleman

We sell to you direct because, with no middleman, it means lower prices for you. Our own Showroom staff who specialise only in PC systems serve you directly and can give you better advice to enable you to select the right system.

Try before you buy

Visit your local Showroom and take a closer look at the quality and performance of our systems. Pick-up our PC Buyers Guide and speak to our staff who will give sound specialist advice, in jargon-free plain English, when you ask for it.

We get you started

Our PCs are pre-configured and ready for use with preloaded software. Simply plug in and switch on. Our unique 90 minute video trainer and user guide covers all aspects of normal PC usage and can be more useful than a visit from a home instructor as you can watch it and learn from it at your own pace, at times convenient to you.

10 years of service and support

Our service is also direct and we have been serving customers for over 10 years. Who else can provide the best service but the people who designed and built your PC. Each Showroom has trained technicians and a Service Centre in addition to direct hotline support to your home.

Money back guarantee

Buy with confidence with complete peace of mind. We believe our products, services and prices represent the best value in the UK. If you are not happy for whatever reason, you can return your PC to us within 14 days for a full refund excluding delivery costs:



2 Years Interest Free Credit Only with Exec Family model

Exec Family Model shown above with microphone, 5 games and Compass CD, £148 +VAT £173.90 Inc VAT extra.

starest Free Example, Pay just £130.85 (10%) deposit and 24 monthly payments of \$46.50 or \$396.85 deposit and 24 monthly payments of \$29. Total price \$329 +\$148 +\$25 debugy +V.





€ £1000 of software

including Lotus

SmartSuite 97

Free Printer (limited offer)

BEST

BUY

70

technology ● 32Mb EDO RAM 4.3Gb Ultra ATA hard disk

 56k voice/fax/modem 24 Speed MAX CD-ROM

 3D Wavetable sound 4Mb SIS Graphics 14° (or optional 15°) SVGA colmur screen

 PC'97 chipset ATX motherboard IBM Gold speech recognition

200M-2 HomePro Best Buy model only £85 +VAT =£99.88 Extra with 64Mb RAM, faster IBM 6x86MX PR200 processor with MMX Technology, additional 5

games software and FREE higher spec dual cartridge printer.

MediaX HomePro These models include Joystick, Microphone, larger premium speakers and 15 multimedia/ educational titles at poly 299+VAT=£116.33 Extra Product codes 200M 400-50-456, 200M-2 400-30-456

All our Computers are year 2000 compliant 12 Months Interest Free Credit

NO Deposit NO Payments NO Interest

Example: 200M HomePro MediaX. Cash price 2989 +539 +525 defivery +VXT = 51319.53 No Deposit. No payments for 12 months and then pay the total in November 1988. Loan is Interest free if fully repeat within 12 months. Finance elso available over a period of 3 years at APR 23.9%. Finance is subject to status, Written details available on request.



Visit your local Showroom or order direct on Freephone 0800 77 11 07

233M-2

Power Pro PC IBM 6x66 MX PR233 (233 M-2) processor with MMX™ technology, 64Mb, 6.4Gb, PCTV & Teletext, 56K modern, VideoPhone recievs, 24 x CD, massive software bundle and a lot more. (A lot laster than our 233-2 Pentium II

266-2





42 UK Showrooms

HEDGE END

Hedge End Retail

Park. Toll Bar Way

HUNTINGDON

Huntingdon Retail

Port St Paters Book

IPSWICH

Sandlings Retail Park

KETTERING

Carina Road

LONDON

liverside Retail Park

NORWICH

Blackberry Court, Sweetbrar Road

POOLE

anning Heath Reta

SLOUGH

SOLIHULL

Sears Retail Park

Nursting Industrial

STEVENAGE

STOKE

SWINDON

Greenbridge Retail Park, Drakes Way

TAMWORTH

ttering Retail Park

Time Showrooms within the superstores of

Powerhouse

AYLESBURY

BANBURY 2 Lockheed Close Banbury Retail Park

BASILDON ayflower Retail Park BRACKNELL

Skimpedhili Lane Retail Park BRENTWOOD 81/85 High Street

BRISTOL NORTHAMPTON Lysander Road, Cribbs Causewa

CAMBRIDGE CANNOCK Orbital Retail Centre

CARDIFF BAY CARDIFF Newport Road (Opens 18th Dec) SOUTHAMPTON

CHIPPENHAN athaway Retail Park, Foundry Lane COVENTRY ialagher Retail Park, Stoney Stanton Road DAGENHAM

Park, Ripple Road DERBY The Kingsway Retail Park GUILDFORD

adymead Retail Park Europa Park Road WORCESTER HAYES ombardy Retail Park Cold Harbour Lane



Showrooms BLACKBURN

Whitebirk Trading Estate, Peel Centre NEWCASTLE MetroCentre,

Red Quadrant, GLASGOW 34-38 Sauchiehali

> HULL Ferensway (Now open) LEEDS

Crown Point Retail Park (Now open) PRESTON

The Capitol Centre, London Way SHEFFIELD Meadowhall

Retail Park

(Now open) **TELFORD** Telford Shapping Centre

WATFORD Asda Shopping Centre,

St. Albans Road All Showrooms open Canterbury opens soon



Bank of England obtains injunctions in fraud scandal

The Bank of England has obtained injunctions against three alleged swindlers trading under the name of First Merchant Bank, Rohert Young, charged with fraud in August 1996 after allegedly losing £16m in trades executed hy a UBS subsidiary, is thought to be one of the three implicated in the latest scandal. The Bank is currently investigating claims that Mr Young, together with Marish Chorbrzynski and Mark Bullen, posed as a bona fide bank employee in an attempt to defraud would-be investors. But Mr Young is also understood to be currently facing fraud charges relating to trades executed through Cantrade Private Bank Switzerland, a subsidiary of Swiss bank UBS, between 1988 and

Small business Bill launched

Barbara Rocbe, the Small Firms Minister, announced a bill aimed at protecting small businesses against late payments. The Bill will give companies a statutory right to charge S per cent over base rate on the late payment of commercial debts. The Government had originally suggested interest he charged at 4 per cent over base rate. Announcing the Bill, Mrs Roche said: "Late payment hits small firms hardest; it stifles growth, disrupts cashflow and ultimately hits profits, I believe that small firms should be given every opportunity to benefit from the increased competitiveness that a healthy cashflow can hring."

UKTV appoints chief

UKTV, the joint venture between BBC Worldwide and Flextech, has appointed Dick Emery chief executive. Mr Emery is presently chief executive of BBC Worldwide. UKTV consists of three new channels - UK Arena, UK Horizons and month. Two further sports and entertainment channels are due to start broadcasting next year.

Daily Mail profits leap

Daily Mail and General Trust, owner of the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday, yesterday reported profit before tax up 68 per cent to £143.7m. Lower newsprint prices and higher advertising revenues contributed to the good figures, which encouraged many analysts to upgrade their forecasts for next year. Northcliffe Newspapers, DMGT's regional division, has been approached by Lord Hollick's United News & Media about the purchase of United Provincial Newspapers. However, analysts say it is unlikely DMGT would buy the whole of UPN, and point out that there are few geographical synergies between the two groups. Investment, page 24

Brussels looks at Reed plan

The European Commission said yesterday it had begun a full inquiry into the proposed merger of the publishers Reed Elsevier and Wolters Kluwer, saying it feared for competition in the British and Dutch legal publishing sectors. Reed and Wolters unveiled a £17bn merger plan earlier in the year. The investigation by the EC could lead to the disposal of various titles in businesses where the two publishers are unduly dominant. The news will come as a futher blow to Reed sbareholders, who have heen hit by the disclosure of irregularities in its Travel Group circulation figures.

Thomas the Tank set for US

Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends will be shown across the US by Rupert Murdoch's Fox Family Channel, following a deal with Britt Allcroft. Britt, which bas the rights to Thomas, believes the move will make a big contribution to profits in 1999 and 2000. Shining Time Station and the Magic Adventures of Mumfie will also be televised. Fox bas the option to extend the existing contract for two years for an additional significant licence fee.

| COMPANY | RESUL | ΓS | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Turnover £ | Pre-tax £ | EP\$ | Dividend |
| Alvis (F) | 72.68m (90.42m) | 8.1m (8.9m) | 7.6p (10.1p) | 3.5p (3.0p) |
| Attantic Telecom (I) | - (-) | 4.01m (0.300m) | 7.93p (0.99p) | ni |
| WS Atkins (I) | 175.3m (153.3m) | 12.7m (10.7m) | 8.4p (7.0p) | 2.70 (2.250) |
| Copyright Premotions (1) | 9.10m (8.69m) | 0.061m (0.085m) | 0.61p (0.85p) | nii |
| Countryside Props (F) | 195.7m (180.3m) | 9.3m (3.1m) | 10.6p (3.4p) | 3.0p (2.25p) |
| Daily Mail&Gen Trest (F) | 1.20bn (1.0bn) | 143.7m (85.5m) | 92.4p (64.1p) | 23 Op (19.4p) |
| Ratcher King (1) | 2.49m (2.13m) | 0.144m (0.072m) | 1.2p (0.5p) | 0.75p (0.5p) |
| Harvey Michels (I) | 60.94m (49.18m) | 6.1m (5.5m) | 7.4p (6.4p) | 2.1p (1.9p) |
| HER&Smith (F) | 81,28m (80 68m) | 1.22m (2.92m) | 2.56p (5.85p) | |
| Hauturs Armeley (F) | 57.85m (54.27m) | | 10.45p (4.65p) | |
| Lucas Varity (0) | 1,166 (-) | 84.5m (-) | 4.0p (-) | Ug. |
| MS interestingal (i) | 14.30m (17.34m) | 0.200m (0.121m) | | 0.1p (0.1p) |
| Pathiner Props (i) | 15.86m (-) | 0.115m (-) | · (·) | nii . |
| Ratal (I) | 596.4m (602 04m) |) 9.2m (21.2m) | 1.99p (4.78p) | 2.1p (2.1p) |
| Relieuce Security (I) | 57.78m(49.42m) | | 6.3p (3.3p) | 1.85p (1.75p) |
| Strick Diagnostics (1) | 3.45bn (2.72bn) | | | Di |
| Titon (F) | 11.95m (11 74m) | 1.537m (1.728m) | | |
| (F) - Final (I) - Interim | † EPS is pre-encept | tionals "Dividend to | be gald as a FIU | Ignobi Innits |

حبكنا من الاجل

23/SHARES

Tynesid*

MARKET REPORT Abbey National breaks through Asian gloom



DEREK PAIN

Asian turmoil returned to haunt the stock market. At casual observer of financial one time Footsie was down 131.1 points; it ended off 94.8 swirled around for much of this at 5.035.9.

Supporting shares, which have sadly under performed their peers this year, had a much more relaxed time as the spotlight concentrated on blue chips with Far Eastern exposure.

So HSBC fell 84p to 1,536p and the Standard Chartered banking group 27p to 698p.

The market, however, remained receptive to old fashioned, unadorned take over rumours. Not surprisingly the latest escapade featured two financial high flyers, Abbey National and General Accident.

Of the handful of blue chips to record plus signs Abbey led the way with a 22p gain to a 1,035p peak and GenAcc troited behind, up 16.5p to 1.054p, a shade below its all-time high.

shares must be aware, have year. The Merrill Lynch strike at Mercury Asset Management, the investment banking retreats of Bardays and National Westminster Bank and

the Swiss roll of UBS and Swiss

Bank Corporation are merely

the latest examples of the dra-

matic upheaval which is transforming the investment scene. The former building societies are flushed with cash, Abbey, the first to become a bank, has demonstrated the rich benefits available from conversion and with its shares riding at a record level must feel

it has the muscle power for a strike at a major quoted group. Insurance would represent an intriguing expansion and

GenAcc an ideal target.

at around £14.5bn - and has even looked in the direction of NatWest.

The Abbey display was helped by positive comments from Merrill Lynch, which is thought to have sharply increased its profit estimates. and SBC Warburg.

The Asda/Safeway story took a breather with Asda off 25p to 173p and Safeway 10.5p to 344.5p. In general retailers had another poor session as Christmas trading worries continued to hit sentiment.

Cairn Energy, the oil and gas explorer, was one to buck the market trend. The shares flared 12.5p to 497.5p as hopes about the eventual Bangladesh concession continue to flow. In the meantime the market had an encouraging drilling report Abbey has made no secret to dwell on and positive com-

Rumours, as even the most of its burning ambition to use ments on prospects from Merits market clout - it is capitalised rill. But Enterprise Oil tumbled 25.5p to 582.5p. Technical problems forcing the suspension of drilling at its Italian Monte Foi field and worries about the crude price did the damage.

Lasmo lost 10.75p to 261.25p. Railtrack remained on the down line, off a further 53p to 943n following the regulator's threatened review.

Share spotlight share price, pence Racal Electronic

DJFMAMJJASOND

Turabull

Orange, the mobile tele- the market's under card playphone group, felt the impact ers created interest. ILP, a packaging group, rose 5.5p to of Societe Generale Strauss 29.5p on a bid approach and

Talks about a possible bid

Trust, the car accessories

group, said bid talks had

ended: the shares, 21p, will go

Newcomer the Autologic

transport group motored to

264.5p from a 250p placing.

The Sytner garages chain end-

ed at 231.5p against a 230p

placing. Bovis Homes, which

arrived on Wednesday at

200p. fell to 188.5p in a house

building sector weighed down

by worries that the house

price spiral was over.

lower today.

electronics group Plasmac rose 40p to 225p on the sell advice, falling 10p to 250p. Racal Electronic rose agreed £11m offer from Arlen 14p to 234.5p as chairman Sir Ernest Harrison plucked his at 230p a share. third demerger out of the hat. He intends to float for engineer Triplex Lloyd provided a 34p uplift to Racal's remaining telecoms 263.5p. After hours Armour operations and sell its loss-

making data products side. The telephony share sale will follow similar exercises featuring Vodafone and Chubb Security (now owned

by Williams). RJB Mining gave up half of Wednesday Tony Blair inspired rise, ending at 250p. and Christie's International. the fine art auctioneer, surrendered 14p of the take over fuelled advance to end at

292p. Take over action among

TAKING STOCK

General Industries, sold at 25p a share, is due to appear on AIM today. Headed by Richard Wollenberg, who runs Cardiff Property, it is the latest startup aiming to offer support to up-and-coming companies. The four directors have 31 per cent of the capital and fund manager Jupiter Asset Management has taken a 15 per cent stake.

Industrial Control Services jumped 8p to 49p as the Trevor Wheatley inspired revamp got underway. The shares were 146.5p in September, before estimated half year losses of £27m became apparent. There are hopes of profits in the second half year. To help stabilise the company shares are being sold at 30p to raise £32.1m. Mr Wheatley, former head of Control Techniques, becomes chairman, investing £1.5m.

Many Death State of the Control of t

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Daily Mail reaps its rewards

Lord Rothermere has been pouring money into the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday at the expense of Lord Hollick's rival Express newspapers for such a long time, that it is high time he started reaping the rewards.

Yesterday, there were rewards aplenty for all investors, with pre-tax profit for the year to September ahead 68 per cent to £143.7m. That inspired virtually every analyst in town to upgrade their forecasts. The price of the company's A shares - not controlled by Lord Rothermere – rose 67.5p to 1875p.

Newspapers were the main impetus for growth. Newsprint prices fell 18 per cent on average and advertising revenues across the two national papers and the Evening Standard rose 12 per cent. Much of the advertising growth came from yield - extracting more money per ad -- enabling the company to squeeze the maximum cash out of advertisers without having to spend more on extra pages.

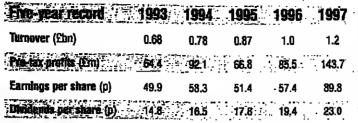
Northcliffe Newspapers, the regional paper division, also had a good year and, like the nationals, managed to improve circulations. Advertising revenues were also ahead 13 per cent. Much of Northcliffe's future performance depends on whether it responds to United News & Media's approaches about the sale of Lord Hollick's regional titles, United Provinwhole of UPN looks unlikely given a lack away in the medium term. of synergies between the two companies.

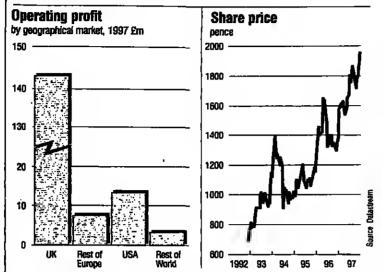
Apart from Euromoney Publications, the specialist magazines and con- Atkins deserves ference business which announced record results earlier in the year. a higher rating DMGT's other divisions have a slightly less certain future.

DMG Radio has run up against the regulators in the UK so far. While its tie up with Chris Evans to bid for the produced compound earnings growth North West radio franchise could lead to further involvement with the DJturned-radio magnate, further opportunities in UK radio look scarce. However, DMG Radio has approached the Radio Authority about buying a fur-

Daily Mail & General Trust: At a glance

Market value: £18.8bn, share price (A) £18.75 (+67.5p)





True, Atkins hasn't been around as

long as Serco, It is also less exposed to

ing on that area for about 50 per cent

of its revenues. And Atkins share-

sitting on a 66 per cent profit from last

Nevertheless, on the evidence of its

interim figures, Atkins deserves better.

The 31 per cent jump in operating prof-

its to £8,4m, achieved on a 14 per cent

rise in turnover, was almost entirely the

tor for about half its revenues. But the

private element is growing faster, as is

dustry expertise- as growth areas.

Atkins still relies on the public sec-

result of organic growth.

yesterday.

via its local cable venture. Channel One. Teather & Greenwood forecasts £168m next year. That would leave the company on a forward p/e ratio of 17.8, cial Newspapers. Such a move could prove a 12 per cent premium to the market. risky and expensive. However, buying the Not cheap, but still worth tucking

WS Atkins must wonder what it is doing wrong. In the past, the group has of about 25 per cent a year. It operates in the fast-growing areas of outsourcing and facilities management - running prisons, managing road huilding programmes for example.

The company has £74m of net cash ther 14 per cent of in Essex Radio. If on its balance sheet - less than half of which belongs to its customers. Yet compared to more established peers such as Serco, Atkins' shares are on a pitifully low rating.

03423

06060

Absolutely disastrous. That's the verdict on Harvey Nichols' share price since its unfortunate investors were persuaded to huy into its over-hyped and over-priced flotation. The fashion store beloved of ab-fah Knightsbridge ladies was launched at 270p in April last year to much puff.

The shares soared to over 370p putting them on a ridiculous rating of almost 40 times carnings - before deflating as investors started to worry about the group's expansion plans. When they fall, go-go stocks fall hard.

of activity, and argues that Atkins has

plenty of good ideas for its spare cash.

Brokers are forecasting full year prof-

its of £20m, putting the shares on a for-

ward p/e ratio of just 18. Given Atkins'

track record and growth prospects, a re-

rating looks overdue. Cheap.

Harvey Nichols

Disaster at

Yesterday's news of just 3 per cent sales growth in the first nine weeks of the second half, sent Harvey Nicks' share price crashing 23.5p to 193n. Though the group refuses to split out the relative contributions of its two shops, growth at its flagship Knightsbridge store appears to be slowing. The strong pound put off overseas shoppers, which account for around a fifth of its sales.

outsourcing than its larger rival, rely-That together with a general lull in trading as a result of uncertainties durholders have not done badly - they are ing the general election and the death of Princess Diana, led to the company to slash prices of some summer year's flotation price of 215p. The stock lines by almost half to clear the shares put on another 7.5p to 357.5p backlog.

There is likely to be more discounting this January given the mild autumn. great for shoppers but not for margins, already under pressure from higher investment in the new Leeds store. True some of that should he offset by continuing strong contribution from the higher margin Oxo Tower restaurant division and better profits from Leeds as the product mix improves.

the proportion of sales from overseas, However, when Harvey Nicks goes which grew by 19 per cent despite the impact of the stronger pound. Chiefexahead with its second store opening, ecutive Michael Jeffries is targeting probably in Newcastle or Edinburgh, costs will rise again. Broker UBS fore-South East Asia and the US - where Atkins is hoping to cash on its oil incasts £13.5m profits for the full year. A rating of 12 times may look cheap He claims the recent dearth of deals compared to a market on 17 times, but is the result of prudence rather than lack is reasonable for the sector. Hold.

Liffe Financial Futures

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



Sky staff have received an unexpected Christmas e-mail from the company concerning the recent decision by Telewest, the cable operator, to drop Sky's History Channel from its line-up. It is being replaced with a number of other channels, including the new BBC channels, "none of which offer a service dedicated to historical programming, or provide the educational value that The History Channel does", says the memo.

Sky continues: "It is important that all Sky staff who subscribe to Telewest call their local Telewest operator and demand that The History Channel be retained on their service. "Please also encourage any friends/family whom you know to be Telewest customers to

The memo then lists 14 Telewest customer service phone numbers, and concludes: "Please delete after noting down the relevant numbers. Thank you."

Poor old Denis Cassidy. The chairman of Liberty was already facing rebellion yesterday by the Stewart-Liberty family at the London store's egm. Mr Cassidy also had to deal with some highly eccentric questioning from the

As soon as Mr Cassidy asked for questions from the couple of hundred Liberty shareholders gathered at the Institute of Actuaries in Holhorn, a white-haired man in the second row popped up and mumbled something incomprehensible. Mr Cassidy said he couldn't understand

the question, at which the shareholder raised his voice: "Are the board a deficient number, an excessive number or a perfect numher?' A visibly nonplussed Mr Cassidy gamely

replied: "There is no answer I can give you hut that the number of directors is five."

To which our mystery shareholder declared: "If you divide by three and you get two, then

you get 28. These are infinite numbers that are the rule of the universe." A bermised meeting then moved on to other matters, until the numerologist felt the need to comment upon the finance director Andrew Garety's claim that while the company was investing heavily "conversely they would get a good * Make A S

Service Services

Server Server

7.1<u>7</u>1.25

JO EDMONTS ON

4: 51---ingzer i i

A second

--- er**re**

4-5-49

· train N

36

The White-haired One said: "Mr Garen return on it". referred to converse but it is inverse, reverse, converse, perverse, as I am." Cosmic stuff.

A colleague assures me this is a direct quote: from a song called "Murder Mystery" by Velvet Underground, which appeared on the heavily drug-influenced New York band's 1969 album Candy Says. What any of this has to do with the future of Liberty is unclear.

Apologies for the following tastcless jokes currently doing the rounds of the City wine bars: What does UBS stand for? You've been sacked. How about SBC'! Sacked before Christmas. A heartless place, the Square Mile.

Church & Co, the posh men's shoe company based in Northampton, said yesterday that John Church is stepping aside as joint managing director next year, but will remain executive chairman.

Iain Kennedy, who hecame joint managing director with John Church when the previous chairman, Ian Church, retired six years ago, will take the new role of chief executive.

John Church is the fourth generation of Church's to run the company since it was founded in 1873, "We were intending to split the roles. I'm 61 now, but I'm not in the market for retiring. I still intend to work - that's what executive means, he tells me.

Church's shoes are a virtual part of the City's work uniform, being too expensive for most mere mortals but not as walletdamaging as getting your shoes individually made for you.

John Church agrees that "our shopper is very much a City man". He also says that while the family connection is useful in marketing terms, especially in the Far East, "we're not in the nepotism game".

There are 1,750 employees in the company, he says, three of which are Church's: himself, his son and a younger cousin.

Both the younger ones have done something else before joining the company, he adds. "Usually we don't let Churches near the company until their late 20s. There are no free meals or sinecures for Churches," he concludes.

Granada has appointed a former president of Hertz International to run its Forte Hotels division. Antoine Cau will join the hotels operation as chief executive in January. having worked for the hire-car company in France, Italy and the UK.

Mr Cau says: "There are many similarities between Forte and the customer-focused businesses I have led in my career to date."

| cent of | the gro | oup. It | is also f | lirtinį |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| somewi | iai oang | erousiy | with tele | VISIO |
| 1 | | | | |
| 1 | | | - | |
| Foreign | Exch | nge R | ates | MM**** |
| | | Bc | | . 0.16 |
| Country | Sterling | 1 month | 2 month | Doll |
| Country | Spot | 1 month | 3 month | Spo |
| UK | 10000 | | 44.50 | 0.603 |
| Australia | 24844 | 24834 | 2.4760 | 1499 |
| Austria | 20.560 | 20542 | 20463 | 12.40 |
| Belgium | 60231 | 60.063 | 59.650 | 36.34 |
| Canada | 23644 | 23590 | 23451 | 1,426 6,712 |
| Denmark ECU | TL124 | | | 1123 |
| Finland | 1.4758 8.8088 | 14757 8.7829 | 1,4721 8,7208 | 5315 |
| France | 9.780 | 9.753 | 9685 | 5901 |
| Germany | 2.9211 | 29136 | 28934 | 1762 |
| Greece | 45943 | 463.97 | 470.27 | 2772 |
| Hong Kong | 12842 | 12.876 | 12945 | 7,749 |
| treland | 11304 | 11299 | 11254 | 1466 |
| italy | 28603 | 28590 | 28497 | 1726 |
| Japan | 214.11 | 272.93 | 21029 | 1292 |
| Melayse | 6.2481 | 62355 | 62339 | 3770 |
| Mexico | 13.577 | | | 8.193 |
| Netherlands | 32901 | 3.2845 | 3.2667 | 1985 |
| New Zealand | 27729 | 2.7693 | 27559 | 0.597 |
| Norway | 11.908 | 11.876 | 11.795 | 7:185 |
| Portugel | 298.37 | 29794 | 296.43 | 180.0 |
| Saudi Arabia | 6.2153 | 6.2124 | 6.1931 | 3.750 |
| Singapore | 27083 | 2.7093 | 2717 | 1534 |
| South Africa | 8.1153 | 8.1823 | 8.2744 | 4,897 |
| Spain | 247:17 | 246.80 | 245,48 | 1490 |
| Sweden | 12,796 | 12,773 | 12,705 | 7.721 |
| | 16572 | 23334 | 23231 | 1/1/26 |
| | UO12 | | | 1 1000 |
| Other 5 | 23640 16572 | 23534 | 2.3291 | 1000 |

0.6380 72.917 60.902 5.6706 6.0330 9835.5 27919 52.665 71.384 329799 6.0861 10000 11148 8.2796 34.798 34017 2242.0 20124 38.440 4505.0 0.3051 77.500

70385 70380 08084 38083 30156 33482 10000 15728 15728 2390 46481 11278 40764 10214 21778 08073 43808 08083 08083 Australia Belgium Canada ECU France German Italy Japan Niands Spain Sweden Stand UK US 439 430 473 489 382 410 534 040 408 458 458 452 194 781 536 **Money Market Rates** 0.3850 44,000 36,750 3.5425 3,6405 5935,0 1684,70 31,900 43,075 199010 3,6725 Eligible Bank Bi Sterling CDs Eurodollar CDs ECU Deposits www.bloomberg.com Source: Bloomberg

Interest Rates

Long Git Dec-97 German Bund Dec-97 US Long Bond Dec-97 1475 12995 9229 9230 9623 9609 9389 9470 9626 9636 9636 9636 Dec Cmll 142 105 76 Products(S/ Spot CIF NV Gasoline 95 Naphtha Gasoli Fuel Oil (3.5%s) 1613 1640 1660 1678 Commodity Indices
Base date Last -106 -274 -015 -013 -051 -051 215.26 231.23 85.86 168.79 191.03 463.54

| LIME (S/tonne) | Çı | ante | Chg | 3 m | onth | Chg | LISE MOD | ks Ch |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| Alummum HG | 1543 | 15-14 | -1500 | 1585.5 | 1566 | -14 | 646050 | -335 |
| Afunirium Allov | 1410 | 1420 | 000 | 1430 | 1440 | 0 | 42180 | -18 |
| Copper A | 1782 | 1783 | -500 | 1810 | 1811 | -7 . | 339726 | -227 |
| Lead | 510.5 | 511.5 | -700 | 526 | 527 | -8 | 114750 | -60 |
| Nickel | 6135 | 6145 | 70.00 | 6230 | 6235 | 65 | 66378 | -5 |
| Tin | 5475 | 5480 | -10.00 | 5385 | 5390 | | 9650 | 34 |
| Zinc | H28.5 | 1129.5 | 350 | 1149 | 1150 | 25 | 492200 | -75 |
| Precious | Meta | ls | | | | | | |
| pm fbc/S per ex | Day's Yea | ris . | fix/£ po | Day's | Year's | Coins (| \$ } | Year |
| Platinum 36200 | chg ch | | | chg | cyd | · | L DOADS | -846 |
| Platinum 362.00 Patladium 205.00 | | | inum 2 adium 12 | 1845 -965 2370 -240 | -480 5175 | Krugirano Sova | s 28425 6681 | - |
| | | 19 Silve | | 3.66 012 | 072 | Nobles | 362.05 | |
| | -150 -83 | | 3 | 200 012 | WZ | Manie Le | | |
| Agricultu | I | | | | | | | |
| Agriculti | arai - | | | | | | | 5:30pm |
| - | | | | | | | | |
| Cocca | Coffee | | Barley | | Potato | | Lge Po | otatoa |
| Cocca LIFFE £/torne | Coffee LIFFE | S/tonne | LIFFE | £/tonne | LIFFE | £/tonne | Lge Po | ototoe: S/25k k |
| Cocce LIFFE E/torne Dec37 109100 | Coffee LIFFE : Nov97 | S/tonne 1672.00 | LIFFE Nov97 | £/tonne 83.25 | LIFFE Nov97 | £/tonne 6060 | Lge Po | otatoa |
| Cocca LIFFE £/torne Dec97 1091.00 Mar98 1121.00 | Coffee LIFFE Nov97 Jer98 | 167200 181700 | Nov97 | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 | £/tonne 60.60 87.00 | Lge Po AGA Nov97 Apr98 | 5/25k k 7/260 7/010 |
| Cocce LIFFE £/torne Dec37 109100 Mar98 112100 May96 113900 | Coffee LIFFE Nov97 Jen96 Mar98 | 167200 181700 180500 | Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 78.40 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 | E/konne 6060 87/00 109:50 | Lge Po AGA Nov97 Apr98 Jun96 | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7020 |
| Cocca LIFFE £/torne Dec97 1091.00 Mar98 1121.00 | Coffee LIFFE Nov97 Jer98 | 167200 181700 | Nov97 | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 | £/tonne 60.60 87.00 | Lge Po AGA Nov97 Apr98 | 5/25k k 7/260 7/010 |
| Cocce LIFFE £/torne Dec37 109100 Mar98 112100 May96 113900 | Coffee LIFFE Nov97 Jen96 Mar98 | 167200 181700 180500 5695 | Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 | £/tonne 83.25 75.60 78.40 74 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 | E/konne 6060 87/00 109:50 | Lge Po AGA Nov97 Apr98 Jun96 | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7020 15714 |
| Cocca LIFFE £/torne Dec37 109100 Mar98 112100 May98 113800 Vol: 17377 | Coffee LIFFE : Nov97 Jer98 Mar98 Vol: Freight | 1672.00 1817.00 1905.00 5695 | UPPE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 78.40 74 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr96 Vol: Corn* | E/tonne 60,60 87,00 109,50 33 | Lge Po AGA Nov97 Apr98 Jun96 Vol: Soya E | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7020 15714 Seans* |
| Cocces LIFFE £/corne Dec97 10910/0 Mar98 112100 May96 11390/0 Vol: 17371 White Sugar* LIFFE \$/core | Coffee LIFFE: Nov97 Jer98 Mar98 Vol: Freight | 1672.00 1817.00 1905.00 5695 | LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: Wheat LIFFE | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 78.40 74 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vol: Com* | E/konne 60,60 87,00 109,50 33 Cents/bshi | Lge Po ATA Nov97 Apr98 Jun98 Vol: Soya E C80T | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7020 15714 Seans* |
| Cocces LIFFE E/torne Dec37 109100 Mar98 112100 May98 113900 Vol: 17371 White Sugar* LIFFE Shone Dec37 30800 | Coffee LIFFE: Nov97 Jer98 Mar98 Vol: Freight LIFFE: Nov97 | 1672.00 1817.00 1805.00 5695 50/dkpl 1771.00 | LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: Wheat LIFFE Nov97 | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 78.40 74 5/tonne 85.30 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr96 Vol: Corm* CBOT C Dec97 | E/tonne 60,60 87,00 109,50 33 Cents/bshi 267,25 | Lge Po ATA Nov97 Apr98 Jun98 Vol: Sorya E C80T : Nov97 | 7254 k 7260 7010 7020 15714 Seans* |
| Cocces LIFFE Storme Dec37 109100 Mar98 112100 May96 133100 Vol: 17377 White Sugar* LIFFE Storne Dec37 30600 Mar99 30550 | Coffee LIFFE: Nov97 Jer96 Mar98 Vol: Freight LIFFE: Nov97 Dec97 | 1672.00 1817.00 1905.00 5695 Stirck pt 1771.00 1310.00 | LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: Wheat LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 78.40 74 8/tonne 85.30 82.75 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vol: Corn* CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 | E/tonne 60,60 87,00 109,50 33 Cents/bshi 267,25 278,25 | Lge Pi ATA Nov97 Apr98 Jun98 Vol: Sorya E C80T : Nov97 Jan98 | 7260 7260 7010 7020 15714 Seans* 3/5k bstd 23.00 |
| Cocces LIFFE E/torne Dec37 109100 Mar98 112100 May98 113900 Vol: 17371 White Sugar* LIFFE Shone Dec37 30800 | Coffee LIFFE: Nov97 Jer98 Mar98 Vol: Freight LIFFE: Nov97 | 1672.00 1817.00 1805.00 5695 50/dkpl 1771.00 | LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: Wheat LIFFE Nov97 | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 78.40 74 5/tonne 85.30 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr96 Vol: Corm* CBOT C Dec97 | E/tonne 60,60 87,00 109,50 33 Cents/bshi 267,25 | Lge Po ATA Nov97 Apr98 Jun98 Vol: Sorya E C80T : Nov97 | 7254 k 7260 7010 7020 15714 Seans* |
| Cocces LIFFE Storme Dec97 109100 Mar98 112100 May96 13300 Vol: 17377 White Sugar* LIFFE Storne Dec97 30800 May98 31170 | Coffee LIFFE Nov97 Jer98 Mar98 Vol: Freight LIFFE Nov97 Jer98 Vol: | 1672.00 1817.00 1806.00 5695 50kdk pl 1771.00 1310.00 1300.00 | LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: Wheat LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 78.40 74 8/tonne 85.30 82.75 85.00 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vol: Corm* CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 May98 | £/konne 60,60 87,00 109,50 33 Cents/bshi 267,25 278,25 285,75 | Lge Printer April | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7020 15714 Seans* 3/5k bsh 23,0 29,9 344 |
| Cocce LFFE | Coffee LIFFE : Nov97 Jen98 Mar98 Vol: Freight LIFFE : Nov97 Jen98 Vol: | 167200 181700 180500 5695 Stick pt 177100 131000 130000 140 | LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: Whost LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: | E/torne 83.25 75.60 78.40 74 \$/torne 85.30 82.75 85.00 162 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Ap96 Vol: Corn* CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 May98 Vol: | E/tonne 6060 8700 10950 33 Cents/bchi 26725 27825 28575 144130 | Lge Pri ADA Nov97 Apr98 Jun98 Vol: Sorya E COOT: Jan98 Mar98 Vot: | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7020 15714 3eans* \$/5k bsrt 2300 2936 340 |
| Cocces LFFE Shorns Dec37 109100 Mar98 112100 Mar98 17300 Vol: 17377 White Sugar* LFFE Shorns Dec37 20800 Mar98 30550 Mary8 31170 Vol: 4010 Other Sc | Coffee LIFFE : Nov97 Jen98 Mar98 Voi: Freight LIFFE : Nov97 Dec87 Jen98 Voi: | 1672.00 1817.00 1805.00 5695 50kk pl 1771.00 1310.00 140 | UPPE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: Wheat LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: | \$\text{E}\text{tonne} \ 83.25 \ 75.60 \ 78.40 \ 74 \ \\ \$\text{\$\text{Floring}\$} \ 85.30 \ 82.75 \ 85.00 \ 162 \ \\ \end{pmatrix} | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vol: Com* CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 May98 Vol: | E/konne 6060 8700 10950 33 Cents/bshi 26725 27825 295.75 144130 | Lge Print Again April Ap | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7020 15714 3eans* \$/5k bari 23.0k 27.0k 28.0k 29.0k 344 |
| Cocces LFFE | Coffee LIFFE : Nov97 Jen98 Mar98 Vol: Freight LIFFE : Nov97 Jen98 Vol: CGME) : (CME) : | 1672.00 1817.00 1805.00 5695 50kk pt 1171.00 1300.00 140 \$/40k lb | UPPE Nov37 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: Wheat UPPE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: | \$125 7569 7569 74 3 \$1000 8530 8275 8500 162 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vol: Corn* CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 May98 Vol: | E/konne 60,60 87,00 109,50 33 Cents/bshi 267,25 278,25 295,75 144130 | Lge Pri AGA Nov97 Apr98 Jun98 Vol: Scrya E C907 Jan98 Mas98 Vol: Sr100 mt Y/ Sk kg | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7020 15714 3eans* \$/5k bari 23.0k 27.0k 28.0b 344 5.30pr |
| Cocce LFFE Shorne Dec37 109100 Mar98 12100 May98 173910 Vol: 17371 White Sugar* LFFE Shorne Dec37 30800 Mar98 30550 May98 31170 Vol: 4010 Other Sc Feb Live Cattle Feb Park Bellier Jan Orange Ju | Coffee LIFFE: Nov97 Jen98 Mar98 Voi: Freight LIFFE: Nov97 Dec67 Jan88 Voi: (CME): (CME): see (CTN): | 1672.00 1817.00 1805.00 5695 50kik pl 177.00 1300.00 140 5/40k lb 5/40k lb | UPPE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: Wheat UPPE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: 67:10 58:00 83:00 | E/tonne 83.25 78.60 78.40 74 | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vol: Corn* CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 May98 Vol: The Marshber Richard CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 May98 Vol: CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 Marshber Richard CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 Marshber Richard CBOT C Dec97 Mer98 Marshber Richard C Dec97 Mer98 Mer98 Mer98 Mer98 Mer98 Mer98 Mer98 Mer98 | E/konne 60,60 87,00 109,50 33 Cents/bshi 267,25 278,25 285,75 144130 | Lge Pri Ata Nov97 Apr38 Jun88 Vol: Scrya E C80T Jan98 Mas98 Vot: 2 Scr300 mt Y/ 5k kg S/50k kg | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7010 7010 15714 Seans* 5/5k bst 2300 2300 240 340 5-30pr 9650 786 684 |
| Cocces LFFE Shorne Dec97 109100 Mar98 12300 May98 17377 White Sugar* LFFE Shorne Dec97 20800 May98 31570 Vol: 4010 Other Sc Feb Live Cattle Feb Pork Bellies Jan Orange Justice Mick | Coffee LIFE: Nov97 Jer98 Mar98 Voi: Freight LIFE: Nov97 Dec97 Jer98 Voi: (CME): co (CTN): (CSC): | 1672.00 1817.00 1805.00 5695 50kkpt 177.00 1300.00 140 \$/40k lb \$/40k lb \$/40k lb | UPFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: Wheat LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: 67:10 58:00 83:00 12:20 | ## Chonne ## 63.25 ## 75.60 ## 74 ## 85.30 ## 82.75 ## 85.30 ## 85.30 ## 162 ## Dec Will Dec Ru Mar Co Dec Co Dec Co | UPPE Nov97 Mar98 Apr96 Vol: Corm* CBOT CDec97 Mar98 May98 Vol: | E/tonne 60,60 8700 1950 33 Cents/bshi 267,25 278,25 278,25 144130 to (SAF) (TCM) (TCM) (KLC) | Lge Pri AGA Nov97 Apr98 Jun98 Vol: Soyra E CBOTT: Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: S/100 mt Y/5k kg S/5k kg | 5/25k k 7260 7010 7020 15714 3eans* \$/5k bari 23.0k 27.0k 28.0b 344 5.30pr |
| Cocce LFFE Shorne Dec37 109100 Mar98 12100 May98 173910 Vol: 17371 White Sugar* LFFE Shorne Dec37 30800 Mar98 30550 May98 31170 Vol: 4010 Other Sc Feb Live Cattle Feb Park Bellier Jan Orange Ju | Coffee LIFFE: Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: Freight LIFFE: Nov97 Jan98 Vol: (CME): (CME): (CST): (CST): (CST): | 1672.00 1817.00 1805.00 5695 50kik pl 177.00 1300.00 140 5/40k lb 5/40k lb | UPFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: Wheat LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vot: 67:10 58:00 83:00 12:20 | E/tonne 83.25 75.60 78.40 74 8/tonne 85.30 82.75 85.00 162 Dec Wi Dec Ru Mar Cc Dec Co | LIFFE Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vol: Corm* CBOT C Dec97 Mar98 Vol: wite Mass been wide Pair vol Oil Corp | E/tonne 60,60 8700 1950 33 Cents/bshi 267,25 278,25 278,25 144130 to (SAF) (TCM) (TCM) (KLC) | Lge Pr ATA Nov97 Apr98 Jun98 Vol: Scrya E C901 Sun98 Mar98 Vol: Sr100 mt Y/ 5k kg Sr50k ib Sr250k tb | 9/25k k 7260 7010 15714 3/260 15714 3/260 2704 2704 2704 2704 2704 2704 2704 270 |

Latest Unit Trust Prices

24-10 49-20 70-38 21-30 24361 955 73601 9632 2269 20487 16589 10480 486 10904 486 1709 7807 7807 7807 7807 7239 360.54 9.50 147.59 105.54 219.52 219.52 110.50 44.67 110.50 513 110.75 1 76.81 70.27 12140 153.50 98.54 465.80 10170 244.30 162700 127700 127700 366.22 449.60 296.30 72.21 66.06 114.20 144.20 92.63 49780 96.30 23120 1080.00 544.00 33.86 422.70 574.50 363.20 214 100 19380 19380 1958 Ing. 977
18330
18330
17310
12320
47600
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
103.70
78430
78430
78430
78430
78430
78430
78430
78430 98250 10430 36460 35460 17830 722 71510 23940 8580 8583 19480 45780 4580 4580 14120 15500 14120 15800 12800

32:0 94:53 95:89 185:90 180:30 At Bloomberg we don't just make history every day. 83.24 83.07 19.20 19.00 19.30

167-40 175-57 168-70 168-70 168-50 168-50 169-50 169-50 169-50 168-50 177-50 168-50 177-50 168-50 177-50 168-50 177-50 168-50 177-50 168-50 177-50 168-50 177-50 168-50 177-50 178-50 17 176.30 164.80 165.70 85900 128.60 177.20 128.60 775.77 784.76 775.77 775.47 775.90 775

5207 5717 53.39 43.91 75.48 54.74 62.91 729.60 54.48 75.28 12431 11329 11131 15811

BASKETBALL

Injury-hit

Chester look

The Chester Jets coach, Mike

Burton, may look to American

John Tresvant to bolster his in-

jury-hit squad for Sunday's deci-

sive league trophy qualifying

group game against one of his for-

mer clubs, Leicester City Riders.

forward, won a Budweiser

League championship medal

last season with Greater London

Tresvant, a 6ft 6in 33-year-old

to Tresvant

25/RACING

Make A Stand may meet his shadow

One Man will not be the the only attraction at Kempton's two-day Christmas fixture. The meeting is also likely to attract the Champion Hurdler. Jan Davies reports.

The Champion Hurdle winner Make A Stand oow seems likely to make his seasonal debut in the Christmas Hurdle at Kemptoo on 27 December, where he could clash with the Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Shadow Leader.

> Make A Stand has not raced since his five-race winning run also attracted the Champion was halted when he trailed in Hurdle fourth I'm Supposin, but

FIRST SHOW

| 2-1 | H 15-8 | <u>L</u> | 7 |
|------|----------------------------|--|--|
| _ | 15-8 | | _ |
| | | 15-6 | 94 |
| 5-2 | 94 | 2-1 | 2-1 |
| 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| 92 | 11-2 | 7-1 | <i>8</i> -1 |
| 7-1 | 8-1 | 7-1 | 7.1 |
| 16-1 | 16-1 | 14-1 | 12-1 |
| 16-1 | 16-1 | 20-1 | 16-1 |
| | 9-2 7-1 16-1 16-1 | 92 71-2 7-1 8-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 14-1 | 92 11-2 7-1 7-1 8-1 7-1 16-1 16-1 14-1 |

RESULTS

FAKENHAM

12.40: 1. ERICOLIN (X Altpuru) 19-2; 2. Afbemine 4-1; 3. Thomas Crown 15-2. 13 rsn. 11-4 fav Highly Reputable (Bill), 6, 14. (Miss A Stokel, Cleverdon), Tote: 5230; 5240, 5150, 5250. Duel Forecast: 52350. CSF: £32.67, Tricast: £195.81, Tric: £58.70, Non Runner: Laura Lye, 1.10: 1, MISTY CAY (R Thomton) 7-2;

2. Scarrots 9-4 fav; 3. Sherbackerid 6-1 10 ran. 16, 6. (Mrs V Ward, Granthem), Tota: £460; £110, £140, £440. DF; £550. CSF; £12.31, Trlo: £33.20. Non Punner: Dick

Turpin. 1.40: 1. MANOR MISO (Michael Brennan) 11-8 fev; 2, In Truth 3-1; 2, Cher-lafrivola 50-1, 5 ran. 31/s, a distance. (G Prodomou, East Harling). Tota: £2.20; £180, £150. Dual Forecast; £440, CSF:

2.15: 1, WAYFARIERS WAY (M.A. Fitzper-eid) 9-4 fav; 2. Laseta 14-1; 3. Lobster Cot-tage 4-1. 9 ran. 18, 11/2. (N. Henderson, Lembourn), Tote: 52:70; 51:90; 53:90; 51:60. DF: 52400, CSF: 53:094, Tricest: \$11375, Tho:

2.45: 1. COPPER BOY (B Powel) 4-7 fav. 2. Straight On 8-1; 3. Lord Rooble 9-4 6 ran. 17, 15. (R Bucklet, Bridport). Tota: \$160,\$100,\$280. Duel Forecast. \$660. CSF:

2. Total Sado Dua Forecast Sado Cor-ESS2.

3.15: 1. HOLKHAM BAY (X Abpuru) 6-1;
2. Frontier Flight 13-8 it fax, 3. Crown And Cushion, 13-8 it fax, 8 ran, 7, 6, fl. Wort-Ingham, Fakarham) Yola: £880; £160, £100, £120, Dua Forecast: £860, CSF; £1728, Tri-

Placepot £1030 Quadpot: £240 Place 6: £1384, Place 5: £397

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Garriwin (Doncaster 2.10)

NB: The French Furze (Cheltenham 12.10

MARKET RASEN

12.50: 1. HEVER GOLF DIAMOND (B McGarn) 4-1; 2. Fair And Funcy 10-1; 3. Estimo Klas 3-1, 7 ran. 13-8 fav Forzair (4th) /s, 15. (J Best, Makistone) Tote: \$400; \$2.50, £3.30. DF: £57.40. CSF: £37.64. Win-

1.20; 1. HARLEQUIN CHORUS (R Farrant) 1-5 fav. 2. Nitsat 15-2; 3. Finnum 20-1, 7 ran. 9, 7 (Mrs. J Pliman, Upper Lam-bourn). Tota: £120; £130, £180. DF: £220.

CSF: \$169. 1.55: 1. MAJORITY MAJOR (A S Smith) 16-1; 2. Dorlin Castle 5-4 lav; 3. Strene 21-1.6 ran, Ind. 23 (P Cheesbrough, Bishop Auckland). Tota: \$16,80; \$490, \$140. DE: \$1510. CSF; \$33,27. Non Runner. Daise Marshall 2.25: 1. GUTTER/DGE (R Johnson) 4-7

tav: 2. Centeur Express 11-4; 3. Night Dance 8-1. 4 ran. 4 dist. (P Evens, Welsh-pool) Tote: £150 DF: £210 CSF: £282 Non

pool: Tota: \$150 DF: \$210 CSF: \$282 Non Rumer: Our Kris.
2.55: 1. WADE ROAD (J F Titley) 5-4;
2. Tejano Gold 6-1; 3. Zebadi 4-5 fax, 3 ran. 5, ½. (Mas H Kright, Wantage). Tota: \$220. DF: \$200. CSF: \$851.
3.25: 1. MANILENO (R Johnson) 13-2;
2. Miss Ondee II 4; 3. Hoh Explorer 8-1. 9 ran. 9-4 fax Grate Times. 8, 2 (M Pice, Wellrughon). Tota: \$860: \$220. CST, \$220. DF: \$550. CSF: \$2488.

Placepot: \$3010. Quadpot: \$1030. Place 6: \$12676. Place 5: \$1863.

TAUNTON

1.00: 1. THE MINDER (D Salar) 9-4 fev, 2. Friendly House 11-1; 3. Palace Parade 14-1 16 ran. 11. sht-hd. (G Edwards). Tote: 23.70; £140, £590, £610. Dual Forecast. £2090. Computer Straight Forecast. £28.47. The Feed.

1.30: 1. GREY SHOT (A DUNWOOD) 1-3 fav. 2. Wilege King 14-1; 3. Welton Arsenel 14-1; 14 nar. 23, 6. ((Belting), Tota: £120; £140, £330, £120, DF: £1210, CSF: £561.

2.05: 1. WINNOW (J CLEOTY) 5-1; 2 2.05: 1. WINNOW (J. CARCY) 1-1; 2-Hightown Cavaller 20-1; 3. Miranters 33-1 Harman, 3, 5. (Mass. H. Kraight). Total: \$4.70; \$140, 6540, \$270. DF: \$1400. CSF: \$9442. Tricast: \$2,78896. Tric: \$54880. Non Run-ner: Miss Souter. 2.35: 1. TORICH VERT (A P. McCoy) 4-5 for 2. Louisi Man. 15-1; 3. Defenditions.

ter; 2. Jovial Man 16-1; 3. Defenditions am 11-19 ran, 2. 1½. (M Pipe) Tota: £180; £140 ES40 £200 DF: £1050 CSF: £1278. Ticast: £8314. Trio: £6190. Non Runners:

Phansik Rum Customer.

AL THE STATE OF TH

3.05: 1. GALATASORI JANE (M. J.TE-J.US: T. CALAJASUH JANE (AN J 12-zard) 4-1; 2. Manumy's Choice 3-1 fav; 3. Indian Run 16-1 8 nan. 1½, 2½. (P Nichols) Toke: £390; £240, £130, £270, DF: £420, CSF: £1500, Tricast, £15251 3.35: 1. NINE O THREE (A Thornton) 8-1; 2. King Of The Dawn 11: 10 fav; 3. Nor-dansk 9-1. 7 ran. 9, 25. (A Hobbs). Tota: £1140; £410, £130. DF; £800. CSF; £1647. Jackpot: £408930. Placepor £4550. Guadoot: £2860.

Place 5: £6191, Place 5: £1761. THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS CHETENHAM 971 982 DONCASTER

0891 261 970

Cale cost Suppermission, 115 pile, Scrutter St (CSA 47)

LINGFIELD

973 983

third to Bimsey and Pridwell in his trainer Richard Rowe. 1996 Supreme Novices' Hurdle, ed training him last year. It just having saddled subsequent the Aintree Hurdle on Grand mindful that the Kempton race is also on the comeback trail. He National day last season and his reappearance this term has will also eoter I'm Supposin for been delayed by a minor cut to the Knights Royal Hurdle at Asa foreleg. Make A Stand, train- cot next weekend. er Martin Pipe's only entry Christmas Hurdle yesterday,

bury veoue last season. Shadow Leader is 11-2 favourite with Coral for the Champion Hurdle with Make A Stand 7-1. The firm have cut Grey Shot to 20-1 from 33-1 for the race his jumping debut at Taunton vesterday.

The Christmas Hurdle has

CHELTENHAM L55: AVRO ANSON, formerly a top-class staying hurdler, devetoped into a smart staying handicap chaser last season and impressed when finishing a close-up il Jodami and Unguided Missile in the Peter Marsh Limited handicap Chase over three miles at Haydock last January. Not disgraced in fin-

ishing sixth to Lord Gyllene in the

Grand National, he starts the sea-

son on a lenient handicap mark and

goes well when fresh. Yorkshire

CHELTENHAM

12.10 The French Furze

1.20 Mountain Storm

1.55 Avro Anson

12.45 Yahmi

Gale may be the main danger.

might fall foul of the weather, has not raced for 18 months.

The Ascot event could also among the 14 published for the attract Sanmartino, who recently heat I'm Supposin in won the valuable Lanzarote the Gerry Feilden Hurdle st Handicap Hurdle at the Suo- Newbury. Rowe said yesterday: "On recent evidence you can't rely on the Christmas Hurdle taking place. The horse needs a run and a couple before Cheltenham. If Ascot is on I might well be tempted to run after winning a novice hurdle on there and I wouldn't be bothered about taking on Sanmartino again. He's a great hig

colt who needs a couple of hard races to get there." Indefence, winner of the

time. He is well handicapped on his

best form and looks a good bet at

7-t with Ladbrokes, Doctoor could

3.40 MENTMORE TOWERS (nap)

pose mosi problems.

2.30 Mister Rm (nb)

3.05 Full Of Bounce

HYPERION

1.55 AVTO ARSON

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Lift-hand, gelioping course with stiff fences. Uptidi run-in of 240yd.

Lift-hand, gelioping course with stiff fences. Uptidi run-in of 240yd.

Course is 'th north of town off A435, Bus link from Cheltenham station (served by , Bristol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Club & Tentersals £14 (Juniors, 16-24 years, £6); Foster's Enclosure £5. CAR PARK; Free.

LEADING TRARESES: M Pige 35 winners from 239 numeristy(6%), D Nicholson 31-77 (181%), N Twiston-Davies 23-206 (111%), J Gifford 18-110 (164%), K Belley 15-83 (181%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 32-165 (173%), N Williamson 28-122 (23%), A P Mo-

12.10 EAGLE PEST CONTROL HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 3YO 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,688

THE FRENCH FURIZE hasn't had to break sweat since coming from lealand, being eased to a welk when demolishing a weak field at Plumpton and jumping his way right into the Trumph Hurdle picture by treating patter most with atmost as much disclain here less mount. He has impressed with his test, fluent hurtling and that should keep him asked of male in this much stronger contest. Read Easter, a useful middle-distance colt on the Flat, finished jarrad up when odds-on and only fourth behind Sound Appeal and Lettyfats at Kempton on his hurdling debut in October. He put that way behind him on more suitable ground at Ascot with a sto-length (value for more) detect of Leviticus and Sound Appeal and, with scope for further improvement. The Prench Furze is unlikely to have it all his own way this time. Sound Appeal followed up that Kempton we with a stock success at Ascot and was staying on effer being outpaced at a vital stage behind fleat Estate in her latest run there. She should be in the money again.

Selection: THE FRENCH FURIZE

12.45 YES-NO-WAIT-SORRIES' CHRIS COLEY RACING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £4,652

26-2 YAHME (14) (CD) (W E Surt) J Old 7 11 2 43-24 ROBSAND (25) (SF) (SF Brean McGrath) G Balcing 6 11 4 4 5 5 Clifford - 3 declared -

FORM GUIDE

© LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 32-95 (173%), N Williamson 25-722 (Coy 25-702 (253%), M A Pitzgerald 14-725 (123%), W Merston 12-95 (141%). ● FAVOURITIES: 195 was from 503 races (38,8%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doctoor (230), Flying Engle (230).

Hall, 20-1 Tikople, Time Project, 33-1 Heddid, Lebytek, 50-1 Fletcher, Myos 1996: Displaced 3 10 9 M A Pitzgeraki 4-1 for (Miss H Kright) 12 for FORM GUIDE

HYPERION'S lengths third to Sophie May on soft ground over 2m7f1 10yds at Worcester last time, may prefer today's TV TIPS more resilient surface and looks fairly handicapped on his best form. With Impunity looks to be the 2.30: MISTER RM, a course and most potent threat. distance winner, was a fair 14 lengths third to Stormyfairweather over 2m1t0yds at Newbury last

3.40: MENTMORE TOWERS, seven lengths second to the sman Deano's Beeno over 2m6f at Haydock, will find life easier here. Gysart appears best of the rest.

0222-1 CLINTON (22) (E N Thomas) K Balley 5 ti 5....

1996: Daraydan 4 ft 7 R Hughes 6-4 fav (M Pipe) 9 ran

ner Spent Cracker is likely to be ahead of most

Jenny Pitman's assistant David

Stait said: "We're hoping to get

him ready to run hul the weath-

er will play the higgest part. Op-

portunities will be limited

because he is so highly rated.

He's going to have to make up

into a conditions horse or things

are going to be tough for him.

nished, horse than he was when

would hope there would be

some improvement in him. If his

legs stand up I'm sure there are

races to be won with him, even

if not the Champion Hurdle. We

think he picked up a niggle

when he last ran at Aintree that

didn't show itself until we start-

3.05: FULL OF BOUNCE, 25

he woo at Cheltenham, so you

"He's a bigger, more fur-

started to grumble away so Grand National winner Cor-Jenny decided to stop and treat the injury properly.

Meanwhile Mudahim, one

of Mrs Pitman's two remaining entries in the Welsh National. has only a 60-40 chance of lining up at Chepstow on the same day as the Christmas Hurdle. The 11-year-old, who won the Irish Grand National last Easter, has 11st 1th in the Chepstow handicap chase. Stait said: "It would be touch and go whether he's ready as he didn't come back to us until Inte. It's probably 60-40 against running at the moment. We'd like to get

him there but if we feel he's short then he won't run." Mrs Pitman, who has a great record in the Welsh National,

biere to win in 1982, subsequent Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Burrough Hill Lad in 1983 and Slearsby in 1986, had withdrawn Nahthen Lad from the three mile five furlongs and 110 yards contest, leaving Jct Rules, beaten 53 lengths into sixth behind Sesame Seed in a handicap hurdle at the Welsh course

er possible. Indian Tracker was yesterday cut to 7-1 and joined his stahlemate Cyborgo at the head of Coral's betting for the Welsh National. But Banjo remains friendless in the market and Coral have pushed him out to 8-1 from 7-1.

last Saturday, as the only oth-

Pipe's overall hand in the



Richard Rowe: Race plan

race is looking strong as he also has Eudipe (12-1), Dom Samourai (12-1) and Evangelica (20-1) in the staying contest.

Options open for Simply Dashing

Connections of Simply Dashing arc still to decide which of his two engagements the six-yearold will take up tomorrow.

Simply Dashing is entered in the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham and Havdock's Tommy Whittle Chase.

Trainer Tim Easterby said: "Simply Dashing is in good form, absolutely great form.

1.20 CHELTENHAM SPONSORSHIP CLUB NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 11

3 GOODTIME GEORGE (33) (Mrs M J Bone) Mrs J Filman 4 11 0

BETTING: 100-30 Mountain Shorm, 9-2 David Leader, 11-2 Clinton, 13-2 Storm Forecast, 10-1 Silent Caches, 12-1 Goodbine George, Use's World, 14-1 Bevantier, Belwento, Country Minstral, 20-1 Calvaro, Proceed, 33-1 Bozo, Percy Crow, 86-1 Others

FORM GUIDE

Bumper winner Mountain Storm made a promising start to his hurding career, just meaning out on the run to the fine against Clinton at Kempton after traving every chance at the final flight. With that run behind him, just a 5to put, Mountain Storm has an excellent chance of going one better, yet just as he tooks fluing malong the grade there must be every chance of DAWN LEADER doing likewise. This lightly-raced individual won his only National Hurt Flat race two seasons ago and lest term reappeared to easily overcome Damlents Choice and Shebang living Mountain Storm beat only five lengths in a Ludlow bumper) at Sandown. As a result, Dawn Leader was favourse for the big Cheltenham Featival bumper and, although he didn't prove up to it, in remains a smart prospect. Storm Forecast, a half-brother to Tullymurry Torf, was runner-up in his only start in a bumper last season and had a race introdution to hurding with his fourth behind Lord Of The River over two and a half miles at Windsor 6 days ago. Although dropping down in distance, this is a much stiffer track and with that experience behind him his should again run well. There are plenty more with improvement in them, though to the moment Foliostone win-

There are plenty more with improvement in them, though for the moment Policestone with Selection; DAWN LEADER

1.55 C.F. ROBERTS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS PLC HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 C4 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £10,221

G Lee

0/32-0 YOUNG HUSTLER (20) (CD) (Gavin MacEchem) N Twiston-Davies 10 11 10 C Mande

But we don't know which race he'll go for yet. We'll just have to wait and see how much rain they've bad."

If the son of Simply Great goes to Haydock he will be racing over three miles for the first time, but this does not worry the Habton trainer. Easterby said: "He'll get three miles all right,"

he stated.

Simply Dashing is 4-1 with Coral for the King George VI: prospect of knee surgery. Chase at Kempton. However, a decision on his participation on uotil after he has raced at the

weekend. Andrew Thornton will ride the 1996 Grand National winoer Rough Quest in the Tommy Whittle Chase.

2.30 CHUBB FIRE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) C4 25,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,453

1986: Chei-Yo 8 11 10 G Upton 5-4 tax (J Old) 4 mn FORM GUIDE

DOCTOOR beat all except Carlo Brigante off a rating only 4lib lower than today's in the imperial Cup at Sandown last March, form which gives him every chance. Only five days after the imperial Cup Carlo Brigante was beaten a length by Barras Boy in the County furnishers at the Faintwal, A strict insupretation leaves the advantage with Docsoot, who is being tried in blinkers for the first time. Barra Boy was only six lengths behind runnerup Mister RM 4lib worse) in Haydock's Swinton Hurdle in May but Mister RM has yet in recapture that from this season and Tibetan, who beating New Inn at Hurstingdon last time, is a binger danger.

3.05 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER CONDITIONAL C4
JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 C4
added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,420

BETTING: 15-8 With Impunity, 8-4 Pongo Waring, 9-2 Goldenswift, 6-7 Yeotman Watrice, 8-1 Full of Bolmos, 12-1 Rapjack Lad 1995, Beason 7 10 9 G Hogen S-4 tay (R Buckler) 5 ran FORIM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

With the tavourite departing at the first, With Imputuitly was left with little to best after Aly Dakey test at Becher's over the Nasonal fences at Aintree on his reappearance and he came home a distance clear of Flanjack Lad, Yeonasa Wasnior tan his best race ever when runnes-up to Bells Life over the National fences in April but it remains to be each if he and With Impunity can reproduce that form over these fences and PONGO WARSING is preferred. The eight-year-old is over his various who problems end malking up for lost time. He wouldn't have beetlen subsequent winner Abavard even hed he jumped the second last clearly at Explor lest month but he stoned in no uncertain terms when winning the test the form of the lest the water when for a length by hs from Rustic Air at Haydock 15 days later. He was value for a length of has none up only 2b. Selection: PONGO WARING

71th, Noby Grown 93 710. BECTINE: 114 Gypart, 7-2 Wentmore Towers, 13-2 Smith Too, 6-1 km At The Top, 16-1 Nordic Brotze, Toby Brown, 12-1 Rumaway Pets, 14-1 Grooving, 16-1 Courbant, Elburg, 20-1 Little Buck, 25-1 Al-

logation
1936 Eburg 6 10 8 M A Fizgerald 7-2 (T George) 10 ran
FORMI GUIDE
Allegation's presence at Heydock 13 days ago meant that the weights didn't go up and
enabled lightly-weighted stablemets Dearno's Bearno to beat Mentimore Towers. This time
et it's GYSART from the same yard who would be carrying a lot more weight without Allegation in the race, it has to be acknowledged that the Haydock run was a promising respparance from Mentmore Towers on his first cuting since trashing that to Forest Nory
at Amree in April, but Gypart could not be in better form.

Selection: GYSART

Leopards, but they released him Weish National betting: Corat: 7-1 Cy-borgo, Indian Tracter (from 8-1), 8-1 Sam-les, Barlo (trom 7-1), 0-1 Selemoni King, What A Hand, 12-1 Euclipe (from 10-1), Dom Samoural, 14-1 Bells Uta, Genéral Wolfe, 18-1 Catific Abbey, Sister Stephenie, Cariboo Gold, 20-1 bar last week when signing Ryan Cuff from Worthing Bears. Golo, 20-1 bar Champton: Hurdle: Coral: 11-2 Shadow Leader, 8-1 Istabran, 7-1 Malke A Stand, 12-1 Sarmartho, 16-1 Walths Sands, Dato Star, Collier Bay, 20-1 Th Supposit, Pridwell, Grimes, Grey Shot (from 33-1), 25-1 bar.

Chester left three of their five Americans out of last weekend's trophy defeat against Manchester Giants, which jeopardised their qualification for the quarter-finals. Sean Bell dislocated his knee 48 hours carlier against Birmingham Bullets, Brian Lloyd has an ankle injury and Ricardo Leonard faces the

Bullets also have an injury crisis. Tony Dorsey (bruised retina), Boxing Day will not be made and Nigel Lloyd (hand injury). missed Wednesday's 63-55 National Cup semi-final first leg defeat at Thames Valley Tigers and could also be out of action for next Wednesday's return. Tigers' Americao Casey Arena also missed the first leg with mjury.

Worthing have completed the registration of the American, Joel Burns, who will play in the trophy against Leopards on Sunday. But they will have to wait at least another week to clear the registration of the Canadian Greg Francis.

In the United States, with some NBA players calling for a boycott of the All-Star game or World Championships in response to the suspension of Latrell Sprewell, there was the prospect of a compromise.

Sprewell was sacked by Golden State Warriors and banned for a year by the NBA for attacking his coach - the longest suspension in NBA history. Billy Hunter, director of the

players' union, said Golden State officials had ootified him that "some sort of olive branch might be extended, or the door might be left ajar somewhat to give us the opportunity to work something out."

- Richard Tayl

ICE HOCKEY

Steelers need cash injection

The Sheffield Steelers owner, George Dodds, yesterday issued a plea for a oew hacker to help the struggling club.

Dodds has been in charge since Steelers were formed in 1991, but he has now become increasingly frustrated at the rising costs of the sport which have led to mounting dehts.

The club has been on the market for more than a year, but with Sheffield believed to have lost around £400,000 in their inaugural Superleague season. they now face a steadily worsening financial crisis. Unless a cash injection is found, it is rumoured Steelers could well be out of business by the start of next season.

A dispirited Dodds, now B retired husinessman, said: "I have to put my family first. I cannot justify throwing any more money into the sport.

"We have been looking for B partner or somebody to take over in Sheffield for the last 12 months and we are now stepping up that search."

Sheffield look set for further heavy losses in the remaining home games of the Express Cup, starting with Newcastle Cobras on Saturday, which has led to an appeal for the fans to turn out in their oumbers. The Nottingham Panthers.

yesterday, underlined their Superleague title aspirations by signing the Canadian-Italian defenceman Mike de Angelis. De Angelis has played at the

highest international level for the last seven years with Italy in both the World Championships and in the last two Olympics. The 31-year-old, set for another Olympic call-up this year, has played for Milao Devils, Lugano and more receotly Milano in the Austria-Italian League, where he scored 15 goals in 35 games.

Newcastle Cohras are helieved to have signed the former Sheffield Steeler. Glenn Mulvenna, with the forward set to make his debut against his old club on Saturday.

- Ion Parkes

DONCASTER

HYPERION 12.30 Silent Valley 1.00 Spring Gata 1.35 Gut-teridge 2.10 Garnwin 2.45 Dear Do 3.20 Ermine

BETTING: 11-10 Yehmi, 11-8 Edgemoor Prince, 5-1 Robsand 1990: Firmsy Buth 10 11 4 Mr M Harms 9-1 (M Weston) 3 ran

GOING: Good.

COING: Good.

Left-hand, pear-shaped course.

Course is east of sown off the A838 (M18 Jots 3 & 4). Bus link from Donester Course is shorn off the A838 (M18 Jots 3 & 4). Bus link from Donester Course is stored states. ADMISSION: Cub 5'44; Tatter-sale 28; Silver Ring 55. CARI PARIC: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Revealey 14-56 (212%), J FitzGer-aid 7-50 (14%), T Easterby 6-18 (33.3%), G Hickards 6-30 (20%).

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Revealey 14-56 (212%), L Wyer 8-46 (174%), B Bradley 4-16 (25%), Willerston 4-21 (19%).

FAVOURITES: 80-211 (37.9%).

BLANGRED FARST TIME: Cole Na Farralge (23.0), Willelaip (23.0), Falcater places.

Fisiostar (visored, 1230). 12.30 GLASGOW PADDOCKS SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) 52,375 added 2m 110yds

1 OP COIS NA FARRANGE (22) M Sowersby 4 11 7

P DINO'S MISTRAL (36) K Margan 4 11 7 A. S. Smith
3 300 PISSOSTAR (18) M Dods 4 11 7 A. S. Smith
4 97-336 RECRUITMENT (33) J Turner 4 11 7 R Burns (7)
5 60- CHAMPS-GIFE, 2004 B Marray 4 11 2 W Dwen
10 PRAGET PARIS (F336) 3 Rothwell 4 11 2 A. Carrie (7)
7 LACHESSS (F289 Mar S Lamyman 4 11 2 Mages (3)
8 02-5 TABREZ (20) P March 4 11 2 O Pearle
9 8 WILLSIOP (USA) (20) J Berry 3 10 7 3 Powell B
10 60 RIBBONE ETTA (13) J Goldie 3 10 2 E. Carbaginno
11 030 SILENT VALLEY (20) Mass I. Sackal 3 10 2 E. Carbaginno
12 ZANABAN (F32) G Flarro 3 10 2 Garry Lyous
12 ZANABAN (F32) G Flarro 3 10 2 Garry Lyous
13-1 Willskip, Lachesis, 20-1 Zanabay, 25-1 others OP COIS NA FARRAIGE (22) M Somersby 4 11

RED RUM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 1.00 25,000 added 3m

- 4 decisred
6 decisred
8 ETTING: 1-3 Spring Gale, 5-1 Cesti Flow, 6-1 Torus Sps., 20-1 Apache
Reider

1.35 DOORKNOCKER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 110yds

Even with Robertud to do the donkey work there might not be all that great a pace with only three runners and YAHRR may be able to best Edgentoor Prince for foot up the hill However, a lot may depends how much rain gets into the ground. Having made the perfect start to his chasing career when pourcing on Strong Chairman close home here test month, Yahmi was unable to reproduce that form with the winner or more testing conditions (and 7th worree terms) at Newbury. Edgemoor Prince has always looked more of a chaser than Yahmi and best hendicappers at Bangor on only his second outing over fences following an easy introduction at Unavietic He washt quits up to a soffer test against Ottows and Eulogy in the much at Worcester last time but remains an examp prospect and there last! Reely to be much in it. 7 200-6 UN POCO LOCO (35) Mrs J Brown 5 10 0 .

Minimum weight: 10st. True handloop weight: Oakbury 9st 12lb, Un Poco BETTING: Evens Dutteridge, 4-1 Most Wanted, 6-1 Golden Thunderbot 7-1 Vintage Taktinger, 8-1 Oekbury, 12-1 Denning Ross, 25-1 Un Poc

2.10 VULRORY'S CLOWN CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £5.500 added 2cmi SPEAKER WEATHERSLL (13) (0) O Breman 8 TI 7

33F 15 POTTER'S BAY (27) D Nicholson 8 ft 2 R Thornton (3) m25- CLARINININ (230) (D) (BF) N Henderson 7 fb 13 TIZE GAMMANNIN (ZZI) (D) (EP) N Henderson 7 10 13
JR Kevenagh
22P-PS EASTHORPE (21) (C) Miss H Knight 9 10 12
JF Titley E BETTING: 11-8 Speaker Weatherid, 15-8 Potter's Bay, 4-1 Garnwin, 8-

2.45 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPON-SORSHIP CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 110yds 3115- NETHERBY SAID (232) P Beaumont 7 12 0 STITO GREEN GREEN DESERT (22) (D)(BF) O Sherwood 6 11 6.

31214B JAZZY REFRAIN (43) (D) L Wels 7 11 3) L. Wester in J derson 10 10 12 J. P. Kawanagh 11 Moore 8 10 12 J. Callaghan 22-03 DEAR DO (6) (D) N Handerson 10 10 12 2234 BOLD BOSS (27) (D) G U Moore 8 10 12 111P-1 MONNAIE FORTE (26) (0) J Adam 7 10 10

BETTING: 5-2 Monnaie Forte, 3-1 Green Green Desert, 9-2 Dear Do. 5-1 Netherby Said, 7-1 Jeszy Refrain, 8-1 Bold Boss. 3.20 SAUCY KIT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

8130 PRINCE KINSKY (28) J Old 4 11 5. DROSS ARROGANT HER (241) (BF) DH Brown 4 10 12 L Wyer OLP CAHERLOW (20) J Macker 6 10 12 T Bey .. . т 🗐 еу G Torme P ECHENTONE (27) WIS PSY 6 10 P 04P.44 ERMINE STREET (20) O Brevian 9 to 12 05P.F3 JUDICIOUS NORMAN (15) J Adom 6 to 12 032-0 LANDLER (37) 1 Notion 4 10 12 E Catteghan

TIGS REGAL ABSENCE (16) D Nicholson 5 TO C R Thomash (3) © ROBERTO RIVA (15) ↑ Sherwood 4 to 12 P Carberry 00-50 SUMO (34) Mrs S Lamyman 4 10 °C 0: SUSHI SAR (F67) Mrs M Reveley 6 10 °C G Lee (3) 3-22 TUCKERS TOWN (31) (BF) 0 Sharwood 5 10 12 J A McCarthy ÷÷ GEISHA (16) N Sabosge 5 to 7

BETTING: 3-1 Regal Absence, 4-1 Prince Kinsky, 5-1 Tuckers Town, 13-2 Errune Street, 15-2 Judicious Norman, 16-1 Sushi Bar, 12-1 Roberto Rive, 14-1 Wurldzer, 16-1 Landier, 20-1 Arrogent Hex, 33-1 others. - 15 dectared -

= WILLOW MELL (26) J Mace 5 15 7

LINGFIELD (AW)

HYPERION 12.40 Vrennan 1.10 Chipstead Bay 1.45 Blue Shadow 2.20 Miss Skye 2.55 Twin Time 3.30 White Plains

STALLS: Inside, except 51 & 1m (outside).

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 51 & 61. ● Left-hand sharp course (Equitack surface).

■ Course a south east of the town on 82028. Rail station adjoins course ADMISSION: Members £13, Tattersals £9 CAR PARIX: Cub

C3, rest free

■ LEADING TRAINERS: G L. Moore – 73 winners from 566 runners gives a success ratio of 129%. M Johnston 59-302 (95%), Lord Humangdon 49-244 (201%), R Hennon 49-389 (125%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 62-522 (19%), J Quirm 47-709 (6%). W Ryen 37-212 (175%), Dean McKeown 25-138 (165%). ● FAVOURITES: 772 wins in 2,278 races (339%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: El Presidente (visored, 1240), Highbury

12.40 COLD AS CHARITY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 5f

Minimum weight 7st 10to 1rue handicap weight. Oodem 7st 8th, El Presdonte 7s 30, Executive Officer 7s 3th. BETTING: 11-4 Vinenam, 4-1 Hartequin Wells, 5-1 Rehasib, 6-1 Tempirosa, 7-1 Kelley Senor, 8-1 Au-le, 16-1 French Mist, 12-1 Occiera, Private Au-

1.10 ALL'S FAIR HANDICAP (CLASS F) 23,300 added 5f 000000 GOODBYE GATEMEN (24) (D) B Peerce 3 8 11 ...

600003 JUST DISSIDENT (10) (D) R Whiteker 5.9 9 ... Dean McKnown 6

5500 THREEPLAY (92) J Avenuer 3.9 8 ... A Chark 4
60000 CHIPSTEAD RAY (2) (C) K hory 3.9 7 (7sc) ... C Soully 3

43006 FEATHERSTONE LANE (4) (D) Miss L Social 9.5 ... M timeless 7 360002 SUNSET HARBOUR (4) (D) S Kettlewell 4 8 7 J Quinn 5 000000 ROYAL SMBLEM (116) E Wheeler 3 8 0 . S Carson (7) 5 - 8 declared - TING: 15-8 Chipsteed Ray 7.9 Courses 211442 OPENING RANGE (24) (D) N Berry 6 9 12 ..

BETTING: 15-8 Chipatend Bay, 7-2 Opening Range, 5-1 Just Diesident, Sunset Harbour, 16-1 Festherstone Lane, 12-1 Threepley, 14-1 Good-bye Gatemen, 20-1 Royal Emblem

1.45 GIFT HORSE NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 6f

2.20 ANY PORT MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 7f

2.55 APPLE A DAY APPRENTICE STAKES (CLASS F) \$3,300 added 1m 2f

3.30 LADBROKE TROPHY HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m

BETTBNG: 11-10 White Piplan, 11-2 Northert Angel, 13-2 Sarbreon, 16-1 Tein Creeks, Bentchef, Victory Stein, 12-1 Three Arch Bridge, 14-1 Cae-N-K, 18-1 Zurs, Mandoza, 25-1 Digpats, 6fr Maßca

the World Race gets ready to resume,

Stuort Alexander reports from Fremantle on the teams' preparations for the challenges of the third leg.

The Whitbread game shifts from man against the sea to man against man when the third. 2.250-mile leg to Sydney starts here in Western Australia tomorrow. The amount of weaththe small acreage that is the Fremantle Sailing Club, where the boats have all been parked for their three-week stopover and makeover, is enough to keep a

week and send some reputations crashing for a few years.

The gurus have been flown in, the faxes have been humming, the phone lines have been hot, and all in pursuit of gambles to be taken. that little extra understanding about what is going to happen in the hard-to-predict Great Australian Bight.

This is not the heavy weather confrontation of the second leg from Cape Town, though the Bass Straits between Tasmania and south-east Australia ean serve up some very nasty conditions, and if a southerly huster er information crammed into comes through at the right time to drive the boats up the east coast of Australia there will be

some exciting times. from the combination of a points less chances than we have had

As the Whitbread Round television station going for a system that means there is everything to play for, instead of having to endure a near hopeless grinding down of hours, perhaps days, of lost time, and a track which does not allow so many

> Going south for fresher westerly hreezes could be just too expensive, and no one is expected to go round Tasmania, as they all would have done on the old route from Fremantle to Auckland. So the game should rest on having the right sails aboard and being able to combine the endurance of over 200 hours of continuous racing with the concentration of an afternoon three-hour thrash round

Said the race leader, Knut But the real tension comes Frostad: "I think there will be

in the first two legs to go for opportunities like those which arose, so probably there will be more of a speed race than we have seen before."

And so hope all of his competitors. Paul Cayard, lying in second place in Sweden's EF Language. expects his crew's day racing skills to come more to the fore on this leg. Third-placed Lawrie Smith is biasing his sail selection to performing well in lighter airs and is looking to improve on two fourth places so far. They can all carry 17 sails, two mains, seven spinnakers and eight jibs, but no one carries the second main, so all go with 16.

While Norway's Frostad has a 10-point lead on Cayard, that is only one place on this leg. But these two have a good buffer on Smith. The four places of third

to sixth are covered by 11 points, in effect one place on this leg, and none of them are sure that they have any speed edge on another. It will be as easy to be sixth as first.

And that is if there is no improvement from George Collins' Chessie Racing, now he is on board with John Kostecki, or last-placed Brunel Sunergy, also with a new skipper m Roy Heiner. Christine Guillou and her all-woman crew on EF Education have a 24-point lead on Heiner, so he will have to beat them by three places to get ahead on a leg where Guillou feels the playing field is more level for them.

ITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RAC

Blood on the water as Iceman and Maverick square up

The competition for places in the Oxford University rowing team reached boiling point yesterday as two crews locked swords, or rather blades, in a trial race on the Thames.

Chris Dodds watched the new man in charge struggle to keep the peace.

Oxford, facing up to five consecutive defeats in the Boat Race, have brought in a new coach in Sean Bowden, a significant component of Camhridge's winning formula before he went to coach the Olympic eight in 1996.

Yesterday he brought his squad down to the Tideway in spanking new Ayling boats to show off their talents from Putney to Mortlake - and they hlew it.

Iceman, on the Surrey station steered by this year's cox, Alex Greaney, and Maverick, on Middlesex steered by the Rutgers cox, Neil O'Donnell, went not so much against each other as at each other. They had a serious clash close to Harrods Depository where blades and flesh made contact, but the Hammersmith, In the melée James Roycroft, No 6 in Mav-His rowlock and outrigger were crews set off again, he was



came in rough water beyond Henrik Nilsson, the Oxford stroke, in Maverick drops his oar as the cox, Neil O'Donnell, is hit by an oar from the Iceman yesterday

erick, crabbed and lost his oar. stroke of his boat, the Swedish international Henrik Nilsson, damaged, and although he com- threw his hands up in despair. pleted the course when the and cox O'Donnell, hailing from the land of straight tideclearly in difficulty as well as in free courses, was questioning a seriously had mood. The just what he had gotten into.

ing and ordered Iceman and Maverick out again on the afternoon ehh. The press launch did not shadow the race from Harumersmith Bridge to Putney,

Bowden vented his anger in but informants report that a their morning outing, with

the privacy of the crew debrief- close race was eventually won by O'Donnell getting the better of including the president. Andrew British international Ed Coode. Iceman by a canvas after Mav- Greaney for the first mile. Both Lindsay, elected recently in erick, on Surrey, had led from coxes had the better of the the start. Blades did not touch. umpire, who was inexperienced Tim Foster who failed to secure matched until disaster struck in cising deft bouts of deafness. new intake includes the German international, has been selected

place of the British international

Five Blues were on parade. international Jürgen Hecht and

We may learn who the real top guns are today when Camhridge stage trials. Their 49er, The crews were well in his thankless task, by exer- a place to read for a PhD. The Andy Ripley, the former rugby

in the third boat, so it looks as if his rowing technique does not match his physical strength. Cambridge oarsmen dominated the British Indoor Championships on rowing machines

mand Grobbelaar

am their fate toda

lams reveals bluepri

RUGBY LEAGUE

McCurrie back in his old code with Warrington after parting with union

Steve McCurrie, the interna- team-mate, Martin Offiah tional forward who left the who has also returned to league game to join Bedford, is returning to rugby league with

Warrington. McCurrie, who has played for both England and Great Britain as well as captaining the Under-21 international side, joined the amhidous union club last season, but is now being allowed to leave and resume his career in his original code.

At Bedford, McCurrie played centre inside his former Widnes

TODAY'S NUMBER

635

The strokes under par by Colin Montgomerie for his last 102 tournaments. Montgomerie, who has finished No 1 in the Order of Merit for the last five years, has won 10 of those events and been in the top 10 55 times.

C Camelat Group pic. Playors must be 18 or over.

- but is likely to be used in the back row of an extensively rebuilt Warrington pack next season.

The Warrington coach, Darryl Van de Velde, described it as "one of the major close season signings in the whole game. He is terrifically strong and desperate to get hack into league." The club, who have already

made four other major signings in the forwards, hope to announce the capture of another prominent Australian within the next few days.

One player who will not now be moving in the foreseeable future is the St Helens and Great Britain winger, Anthony Sullivan, who has asked to come off the transfer list.

"The club has assured me that I have a future here and that's what I wanted to hear," said Sullivan, who was Saints' player of the year and played in the first Test against Australia

in November. Saints' chief executive, David Howes, said that the at the club until 2000. duh was delighted that Sullivan

would be staying, unlike several of his team-mates, who have already moved on this winter.

"He hecame unsettled and there was some interest from rugby union, but we have explained how we are going to rebuild and maintain our challenge for trophies," Howes said.

The Wigan coach, John Monie, is hoping to sign an Australian centre to complete his squad for next season, but has ruled out a move for the Test player, Paul McGregor. "He would be great, but he is under contract at Illawarra for another two years," he said. "We are looking around for who else might be available."

Monie has also ruled out any prospect of Henry Paul moving to the London Broncos. "There is no chance," Monie said, "I have spoken to Henry and told him that he is Wigan's number six until he loses the joh."

The Sheffield Eagles utility forward, Darren Turner, has agreed an 18-month extension to his contract that will keep him

- Dave Hadfield

How to iron out failure and drive towards success

eptitude having a golfing handicap far in excess of your highest break at snooker may be a handy rule of thumb. The only beef would be that it is a

little too near the bone. Whether it is on the greens, or the green haize, talent will out, or not as the case may be. one noted pupil, won his sec-Since too little of it is distributed among so many, those willing to reveal their secrets of success will always be in a country as Ryder Cup huyers' market, especially at this time of year.

Whether dreams of lower- Book was the first, and ing that handicap outlast the best, in a series of anecfestive spirit and New Year resolutions, you can at least take as a teaching professionceiving such an instructional tome means there is someone. however deluded, who cares enough to believe that one day you might break 80, 90, 100...

the conceptually simple idea of striking a little white hall with a hi-tech stick produces an infinite array of individualistic styles, there are many contrasting approaches to the subject of golf instruction.

As a measure of sporting in- One may be more helpful so to speak, has now collect- low, £15.99). When "Lead" is and My Story (Ebury Press, that the others, reading the lot ed The Best of Harvey Penick not on the driving range with £16.99), Jack Nicklaus autowould be a sure-fire way of 1CollinsWillow, £12.99) into Nick Faldo, he is teaching

never being able to play again. one volume. There is much spun wit and wisdom, Harvey Penick is still the leader in the field desoite his death in 1995. a week before Ben Crenshaw, ond US Masters and two years prior to another, Tom Kite. represented his

cantain. Penick's Little Red Golf dotal accounts of his life

comfort in the fact that re- al in Austin, Texas. Penick Harry Alder and Karl Morris's turned to teaching after encountering a young Sam Snead at the Houston Open in the mid-1930s. The sound of Snead's drive, more than the Inevitably, in a sport where sight of it, started alarm bells ringing for Penick. "It sounded like a rifle and the ball flew like a hullet," he wrote. "I knew right from that moment that my future was not as a

tour player."

When it comes to home- common sense to be reminded of, although no explanation is given when he quotes Ben break to the west." Far more mysterious is

BOOKS FOR **CHRISTMAS**

Masterstroke (Piatkus, £9.99), which delves into the power of the mind using "neuro-linguistie programming". One suh-heading declares: "Contextualising your anchor" what is this, deep-sea fishing? - but if as natural a golfer as lan Woosnam swears by it, there must be something in it.

More familiar territory is explored in David Leadbetter's Bud Shrake, Penick's ghost, Positive Practice (Collins Wil-

someone else and on this occasion the theory is kept to a minimum in favour of solid, practical advice on improving Hogan as saying: "All other all areas of your game. A things being equal, greens must for anyone who lifts their clubs out of the car to take them to the first tee, and

> after the 18th. Since nothing ruins a card quicker than a twostroke penalty, a knowiedge of the rules is essential. To that end an explanation of their evo-

returns them to the boot

lution is a useful guide to understanding and such is provided by Kenneth Chapman's The Rules of the Green (Virgin, £16,99). A dry subject to be sure, without a gin and tonic in the hand - much of the research was carried out in the Royal & Ancient library at St Andrews - hut one treated with a pleasingly light touch.

To learn from the rich and famous of the game, try A biography of Tiger Woods by John Strege (Piatkus, £14.99)

biography. Naturally, given the length of their careers to date, the latter volume is somewhat thicker than the former. In his younger days, the Bear was known as "Fat Jack". Tiger, coming up to his 22nd hirthday, is just a fat cat.

Disappointing as it is not to have any account of this year's Ryder Cup at Valderrama to review - shame on the puhlishers who turned down proposals prior to what was always going to he a dramatic and controversial event - the best, and funniest, account of life on the European Tour is presented by journalist-turned-caddie Lawrence Donegan.

In Four-Iron in the Soul (Viking, £15.99), Donegan spends the 1996 season carrying the bag of Ross Drummond. It turned into the Scot's best season in 19 years on tour. This year, Drummond, at the age of 41, failed to retain his card. It can be a funny, old, cruel game.

- Andy Farrell

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 10/12/97. The winning numbers: 4, 17, 22, 29, 38, 48. Bonus number: 20, Total Sales: £29,689,955, Prize Fund: £13,360,479 (45% of ticket sales).

| CATEGORY | NO. OF WINNERS | AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER | TOTAL EACH TIER |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Match 6 (Jackpot) | 3 | £1.333.546 | £4,000,633 |
| Match 5 plus bonus balt | 11 | £111_906 | £1,231,966 |
| Match 5 | 821 | £937 | £769.277 |
| Match 4 | 35,381 | £47 | £1,662,907 |
| Match 3 | 566,694 | £10 | £5,666,94 0 |
| TOTALS | 6n2.910 | | £13,330,728 |

IT COULD BE YOU! THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

Breakago (prizes rounded down to nearest £11: £29,751.

Display of mirror-image leadership by Faldo and Parnevik

Nick Faldo and Jesper Parnevik ter treatment on a bad neck and stayed neck-and-neck at the is one stroke ahead of the Filfront of the Johnnie Walker Su- ipino, Felix Casas. The second per Tour after the second round round was hard going, though. in Bangkok yesterday.

0 53 6 ●

Both scored 67 in the first It was tough at times for round in Jakarta, and followed everyone. Faldo had three bogeys up with one-under-par 71s. The but saved his round with four pair opened up a two-stroke birdies, and said: "I played well lead over the South African, and had plenty of chances but I Ernie Els, who also hit a 71 affound the greens very difficult."

Parnevik had a bogey on the Colin Montgometic has been 10th and a double-bogey on the I Ith and described the course as 'very long and very tough". for Ian Woosnam, who hit a 74.

Today, the tour moves to Boracay in the Philippines for the third round, and finishes on Sunday in Taiwan.

JOHNUL WALKER SUPER TOUR (Barokok)
Second round: 138 N Paido (GB) 67 71; J
Parniwik (Bret) 67 71, 140 E Bu (SA) 69 71, 141
Parniwik (Bret) 67 71, 140 E Bu (SA) 69 71, 141
Parniwik (Bret) 70 71, 142 B Rubright (Tital) 72
72, 144 I Widosteim (SB) 70 74 154 H Chia-Yuli
(Tare) 77 77 161 M Nasim (Indon) 74 67.

given honorary life membership of the European Tour in recognition of his five successive Order of Merit titles. Alison Nicholas, the US Women's Open champion, has been awarded the 1997 Golf Writers' Trophy, beating the Europe Ryder Cup side by two votes, with Montgomeric. last year's winner, in third place.

حكتا من الاجل

27/SPORT

Ferguson may buy to secure the greatest prize

After Wednesday night's loss in Turin, Alex Ferguson may dip into the Old Trafford war chest to improve

Manchester United's chances of lifting the European Cup. Martin Lipton reports.

Alex Ferguson feels he already has a squad that can repeat the feat of Sir Matt Busby's side 30 years ago and claim the greatest prize in European club foot-

But as he returned home from yet another Turin defeat United manag-

European Cup

Manchester United

Barussia Dortmund

Dynamo Kiev

Real Madrid

Bayern Munich

Bayer Leverkuser

er revealed he prepared to strengthen his ranks if he thinks it could mean the elusive prize coming back to Old Trafford.

Under

Champions' League rules, Ferguson has until 31 January to register two more players with Uefa, which would allow them to play in the. knock-out stages. And Ferguson ty about it, but we have been looking at certain things and it's schamps return. possible we will buy before the deadline. We always look to try to strengthen the squad. This is

a good opportunity to buy two players, but nothing's certain." One who could be among the incomers is the Chilean striker Marcelo Salas. Ferguson has already been out to Santiago to watch the River Plate player in World Cup action, and he again rebuffed the suggestion that he had decided against making a move for the £10mrated player. "I've never said the deal was off," he maintained. "We'll go and watch him again,

Ferguson was critical of his defence in Turin, but the fact is that even without Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes and Andy Cole, United held out against a des-mund, Spain's Real Madrid. perate Juventus team for 84 or Dynamo Kiev.

sition we need.

hut he might not play in the po-

minutes until Filippo Inzaghi found a way past Peter Schme-

With Rosenborg missing out at the death in Athens, the win was enough for Juve to sneak through into next Wednesday's last eight draw.

"Juve, the Cup Wants You." proclaimed Turin-hased sports newspaper Tintosport, striving to find an explanation for the extraordinary turn of events in the dying minutes of Wednesday night's matches. Inzaghi, who just two weeks ago was dropped by his coach, Marcello Lippi. after a poor run of form, was ec-

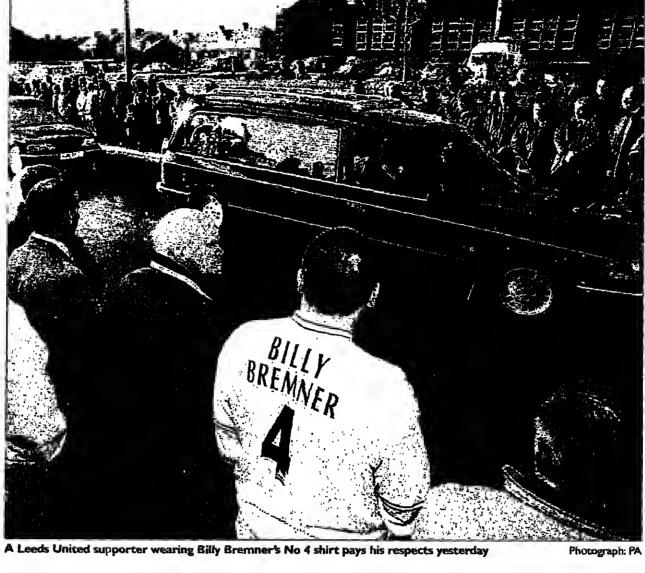
The thought that the two clubs are destined to meet once yesterday, the Manchester more, next May, only grew in the aftermath.

> with the Juve manager, Mar-Quarter-final qualifiers cello Lippi, suggesting he thinks the two clubs will contest the final, If that happens, United's failure to push on and

eliminate La Vecchia Signom may come back to haunt them, although Ferguson's reaction hinted he helieved his full-strength team had the measure of Lippi's admitted: "There's no certain-". side, even when Alessandro Del Piero and Didier De-

"I don't know if this will be a turning point for Juventus, I've no idea," he said. "But I'm just not interested in that. It's better for them than not being in. They're a good and strong club. and the quarter-finals will hold no fears for them. They've got the experience to bandle it.

United at least know they will not meet Juventus again in semi-finals. Juventus lessened the chances of United meeting one of the lucky runners-up in the last eight, as United can now only be drawn against Bayer Leverkusen. The likelihood, then, is that they will come up against one of the other group winners, including the defending champions, Borussia Dort-



Farewell to Leeds' 'greatest captain'

ton was the setting yesterday for football's farewell to Billy Bremner, who died on Sunday two days before his 55th hirthday.

Former team-mates of the Leeds United captain and Scotland midfielder, such as Johnny Giles, Norman Hunter. Duncan McKenzie, Allan Yorath, Terry Cooper, Gordon McQueen, Joe Jordan, Paul Reaney and Peter Lorimer. were among the congregation.

The former Derby County warhorse. Dave Mackay, was though they could do in the celebrated hard man holding Bremner by the scruff of his shirt as the young, flame-haired Leeds player protests his in-

nocence. Present day players were David Batty especially will have good cause to remember Bremner. He followed his hometown club as a child, with Bremner as its focal point. Several years later it was Bremner

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

A small church in the south who, as manager of Leeds, had when a former leading player Yorkshire village of Old Edling- the foresight to sign the equal- dies, but vesterday's ceremony ly forceful youngster who went on to become an England international.

Fresh from Turin, Alex Ferguson walked sombrely alone to the priest at St Mary's Church, the church. "I knew him for a long time." said Bremner's fellow Scot and Manchester United manager. "He still had the Clarke, Eddie Gray, Terry same great enthusiasm for Leeds. He was a great player for Leeds United and Scotland."

Lorimer found the suddenness of Bremner's death from a heart attack hard to bear. "It's such a tragedy that there as well, bringing to mind he died so young, but I am at football with passion and the quarter-finals in March, al- the famous photograph of the proud to have known him and with pride. It was the only way to have had the honour of play- he knew ing with him," he said.

Bremner was a legentlat Elland Road, making 585 League appearances for Leeds between 1959 and 1976. He won two there too - Newcastle United's championships, the FA Cup, the League Cup and two European Fairs Cups. He was voted Footballer of the Year in 1970 and was capped 54 times by his country.

There will always be sadness

Anfield next for Cambridge prodigy

was more about celebrating a life which had enriched so many lives in the 60s and 70s. Even Pather Gerry Harney,

regaled the congregation with his own tales of Bremner - particularly a goal from 40 yards against Celuc in the semi-final of the European Cup.

The throng went wild with joy, an immortal moment among immortal moments," he said. "He has achieved so much and has meant so much to so many. Billy served his country

In one simple statement Father Harney underlined just what Bremner, who had been the catalyst for Leeds' greatest momenis (from the FA Cup of 1972 to the League championship of 1974) meant to so many.

coffin and wreaths of yellow, purple and white - the colours of Leeds - surrounded the crossed the great divide. hearse. A wreath from the for-

mer Leeds United captains. Gordon Strachan and Gary McAllister, carried a tribute which read: "To Leeds United's greatest captain. It is an honour to follow in your foot-

Outside the church, Leeds fans from different generations stood side by side. Such was the stature of Bremner that his name still adorns the No 4 shirt in the club shop. Several were worn by mourners - one by a teenage boy too young to have witnessed his idol's greatest moments.

Even the weather turned in the favour of those who had come to pay their last respects. The threat of heavy rain was replaced by hright sunshine hut when the congregation emerged after the two-hour service, the sun hid again as though honouring Bremner as well.

Among the crowd, a Leeds supporter stood beside a fan in Yellow roses adorned the a Manchester United shirt in mutual mourning. The respect Bremner commanded had

Is it a boat?... Is it a plane?.. No... It's a powerboat

The Formula One Powerboat World Championship reaches its climax today. Adam Szreter reports from Abu Dhabi.

One of the wealthiest little Emirates in the world is gearing itself up for today's final round of the Formula One Powerbont World Championship at the Abu Dhabi International Marine Sports Club, along a half-mile stretch of the Persian Gulf Mosque-topped skyscrapers for a backdrop.

The traditional climax to the season arrives after seven races in Europe and one in Xiamen, where over half a million Chinese spectators turned out on each of the two days of racing to watch the catamarans travel at speeds of up to 140mph across the

Barely a thousand are expected to line the beach along the corniche road today, but as most of those will be friends or bodyguards of Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, the event's patron, it is the quality rather than the quantity of the spectators that will count.

What they will be watching is neither in-shore nor offshore powerboating - the sport in which billionaires battle against the elements and where the former Formula One motor-racing driver Didier Pironi and Princess Caroline of Monaco's husband, Stefano Casiraghi, met their deaths.

This is circuit racing in extremely light craft (390kg) which barely touch the water as they hiast down the straight, countering such Gcan occasionally suffer a momentary blackout.

The trick is in the "trimming", where the driver attempts to control the amount of water flowing through the tunnel beneath him, thus increasing or reducing drag by altering the angle of the twolitre engine. The choice of propeller (each team will have around 40 to choose

from) is also critical and depends entirely on the prevailing conditions.

"A Formula One boar is more an acroplane than it is a boat," said Billy Seebold, the American former world champion who now designs boats for many of those racing today. "The driver is trying to fly it just above the water, working the throttle with the foot, steering it and monitoring a two-litre engine all at the same time."

It is a dangerous sport, where slight gusts of wind can with the descrit city's cause havoc and a dodgy trim can catapult a vessel skyhigh. But safety has improved immeasurably since 1984 when there were five fatalities in six races, with drivers these days strapped into their moulded cockpits. Now they only have to worry about drowning rather than being torn to shreds.

It can also he costly in financial terms, with each team needing to find \$1m (£600,000) per season per boat, and each event costing the Union Internationale Motonautique, the sport's governing body, around the same. Today marks the end of British American Tobacco's involvement and the UIM. celebrating its 75th anniversary, has its work cut out to

find new backers. The edge has been taken off the competitive side of today's proceedings by the presence of the American Scott Gillman, who in his first season outside the US has an unassailable 23-point lead in the championship. But the race for second place should be a light one between Italy's Guido Cappellini, champion in the four previous years, Finland's Pertti Leppula and the Welshman Junathan forces in the turn that drivers Jones, another former champion who combines this madness with a job as a banker.

> FORMULA DINE POWERSOAT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Night and ti-WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Ninth and fi-nal round (Abu Dhab), UAB; Final quel-litying classification for today's roce; 1 G Cappelin (II; teem: DAC Racing; ruli, DAC) tastest lap 5725ce, V153/mh, 2 5 Gamen (US, Ranbow Formus, See-bod) 5736; 3 F Cantando (It, Singha, DAC) 5730; 4 J Jones (BB, JP Gold Leaf Seebod) 5751; 5 P Blackburn (GB, Em-rates Ft, Burgess) 5822; 6 P Leppala (Fin. DAC Europe, DAC) 5828; Seloctiod; TA A Eliott (GB, MPR ACE Racing, Burgess) 1,0080; 21 A Marshall (GB, MPR ACE Racing, Seebold) 1,0486.

Segers and Grobbelaar to learn their fate today

Segers appeared before a Foothearing yesterday charged with misconduct.

The pair, who were cleared earlier this year of match-fixing allegations, are charged with breaking the FA's rules on betting. During their trial, both admitted taking money from a Far East betting syndicate for forecasting match results. They will learn their fate at midday today.

Earl Barrett, the full-back who was Joe Royle's first signing when he took over at Everton three years ago, has been told he can leave. The 30-yearold has had talks with manager Howard Kendall, and his availability has been circulated to other clubs.

Crystal Palace are set to sell forward Carl Veart to Millwall

Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans and defender Gareth Davies to Reading. Veart's price has been ball Association disciplinary set at £100,000, while Davies is expected to depart for Elm Park for £175,000. Neither has been able to command a firstteam place this season.

Barnsley have decided not to take on the Estonian international defender, Marek Lemsalu following a week's trial.

Crewe's hopes of signing a defender on loan hefore the derby trip to Stoke on Saturday have been dealt a double blow. Southampton's Richard Dryden and Derby's Dean Yates have both turned down the chance to join the First Division strugglers. Wolves will not appeal

against the sending-off of Steve Sedgley following Tuesday's defeat at Portsmouth, during which the central defender was crs' agent. dismissed for violent conduct.

pool caps a remarkable year in the life of the 20-year-old Cambridge City striker. Neil Harris.

There cannot he many Dr Martens League players who have both English Premiership and German Bundesliga clubs competing for their signature. Last month Cambridge City

rejected an offer for Harris from the European Cup quarter-finalists Bayer Leverkusen. with whom their hot property had spent less than a week training. Earlier in the season he also spent some time with FC Cologne - both trials having been set up by the former Cologne, Nottingham Forest and England striker Tony Woodcock, who is now a play-

Harris joined Cambridge

The offer of a trial with Liver- City last February from the little Essex club, Maldon Town. He scored 12 goals in 21 games to help save City from relegation from the Dr Martens Premier Division last season, and has already hit 20 goals this term, including a hat-trick in an

FA Trophy tie last week against

the Dr Martens League leaders.

Merthyr Tydfil. Harris, who works as an insurance salesman in London, joined Maldon as a 16-year-old from another Essex side. Great Wakering Rovers, in 1994, In his first season with Maldon he scored 67 goals as an under-age player in their under-18 team. Maldon sold him to Cambridge City for only £4.000 - but the Jewson Eastern League side will get a cut if Liverpool decide to the Screwfix Direct Western League last month. When tifracombe Town's goalkeeper. Ross Bellotti, was injured prior to a game at Pewsey Vale, he was replaced by his father: 50-year-old Derek Beflotti, who made his League debin for Gillingham in 1966 and went on to play for Charlton Athletic, Southend

United and Swansea City. The previous weekend, at Wellington, Pewsey Vale included Alec Amor in their defence. At the age of 54, he lasted the full 90 minutes.

The FA Carlsherg Vase reaches the last-64 third-round stage tomorrow. Arguably the top tie takes place in Dorset. where the 1992 winners, Wimpay the £250,000 wanted by City. horne Town, will be seeking

Two somewhat older players revenge against the 1993 runwere making their mark in ners-up, Tiverton Town. When the two sides contested an FA Cup second qualifying round ne in Devon in September, Trvvy won 11-1.

Hereford United - the financially troubled GM Vauxhall Conference club relegated from the Third Division last season - are hosting an auction this weekend to raise funds to safeguard their future.

Lois include signed firstday covers from Sir Stanley Matthews, signed shirts from David Beckham and Alan Shearer and a Scotland v Brazil programme autographed by Pele. The auction takes place at the Green Dragon Hotel in Hereford at 2.30pm on Sunday. with viewing from 1 lam.

- Rupert Metcalf

SWIMMING

Season's best for Hickman books him passage to Perth

Last year's Olympic finalist, James Hickman, produced his hest display of the season in Sheffield last night to book his place in the British team for next month's World Championships in Australia.

Hickman met the qualifying standard with more than two seconds to spare in the 200 metres butterfly final at the British Championships. The 21-year-old world short

course title holder had to chase a time for the championships, which begin in Perth in a month's time after food poisoning forced him to pull-out of the European Championships in Seville last August. Hickman's time of Imin

58.33sec, just 0.18sec outside the British record he set in Atlanta last year when he finished seventh, would have been good enough for silver in Spain.

"That's a relief," said the Stockport Metros swimmer, who has recently parted from his tong-time couch, Dave Calleja, after a series of rows. "My preparations have not been smooth. A lot of things have been going on, but it has made me mentally more focused. I now know that more than anything I want to go to Perth and win a medal.

"I was really pleased with my swim and it is a good time. It puts me into the top 10 in the world going to the championships.

Britain's two freestyle medallists from Atlanta both won their 400m heats. Paul Palmer, the Olympic silver medallist, won his heat in 4:00.68. Graeme Smith, the 1500m specialist, also qualified comfortably for the final.

- Ian Gordon

SPORTING DIGEST

SNOOKER

Williams reveals blueprint

the game's governing body, the World Professional Billiards and Spooker Association, yesterday unveiled a blueprint to end the sport's latest civil war.

for his part in the sacking of his chief executive, Jim McKenzie. last month, has outlined his views in a letter sent to all members of the WPBSAL

and Parnevik

His plan has four parts: 1) To commission an independent report to find how best to manage the Association's organisation

into the next millennium. 2) Appointed management consultants would draw up a ousted.

Rex Williams, the chairman of shortlist of candidates for a new chief executive not necessarily brought in from inside snooker.

3) The number of voting members to be increased from the top 40 professionals to the Williams, heavily criticised top 64 in the last two years' ranking list.

4) A series of target groups to be established to advise and inform the Board on issues of concern as and when they arise. The letter is published before

the game's AGM at London's Cafe Royal next Friday where Williams' chief opponent. Ian

Athletics
Wilson Bolt Kipketer, the world 3,000 metres steeplechase champion, will take part in next month's County Durham International Cross-Country meet at Aykley Head on 3 January. Kipketer, 24, who led a clean sweep of the madals for Kenya at the World Championships in Athens this year, will be up against defending champion Jon Brown, the Sheffield runner.

Badminton MORLD GRAND PROX (Jakanta): Men's Singler Group & Liu Ygang (Crin tit A B kusama inton 18-3 (8-4) P Gode-Crissensen (Den) to 18-brieso (Indon 5-2-8-7 Group B: Sun Jun 10-brieso (Indon 6-2-8-7 Group B: Sun Jun 10-brieso (Indon 18-5-8-9 Group B: P Restrissen (Indon 6-5-8-18-9) Group D: P Restrissen (Indon 6-5-8-18-9) P Singleson (Indon 6-18-18-9) P Singleson Brieson Brieson

Basketball MEAN FORCE 96 L'INVALAGE 91 CHARGES 2/4 MASSINGTON 1/21: Canaders 2/2 Dennes 83. Oriento 1/5 Charges 1/2 Canaders 2/2 Canaders 1/2 Charges 1/2 Charges

Dovle, is expected to begin his campaign to have the chairman ousted.

Paul ingle, the British and Common wealth featherweight champion, has been fined \$2000 by the Boung Board of Control to taking a banned substance incle 25 ttcm Scarbor-

ough, tested positive for the diuretic Frusemide after his successful title defence against Jonjo Irwin at the Sheffield Arena on 11 October Cricket

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (Deihl): West in-des 79 (T Gunarame 4-6) Sir Lanka 81 tor 4 Sri Lanka won by elx wickets. Cycling

The International Cycling Union has barned the use of high-technology cycles from championships from January 2000. The UCI will issue new guidelines to specify acceptable bi-cycle weights, frame and wheel sizes Football Lift Kirsten, of Bayer Leverkusen, the Bundesliga s leading scorer, has been banned for nine weeks for elbowing

banned for rane weeks for albowing Schalke 04's Thomas Linke in the law. NATHAMIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Rearranged foture. The 20 Jan Chicagas v. Caciff Un.
CITCA-COLA CUP QUARTER-FINAL FIX-TURES: Tue 6 Jan Reagny v Modestrough was Ham v Arsenet Wed 7 Jan Ipsouth v. Chalses Newcastle & Linerboo!
WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESILLTS: European Cup. Champions: Lesigue Group A-Gelatiss van Parma: Sparie Propie of Structure of Lambias Propings of Structure of Lambias Propings of Communication of the Action of the Communication o

main 2 Besinias 1 Group Pt Beyer Levenween 2 AS Monaco 2 Sporting Lisbon 2 Liene SK t PA Umbro Trophy third round qualifying re-play: Legit Pall 1 Bradford Park Avenue 0 Golf

OMEGA PGA CHARPIONSHIP (Hong Kong) Leading Tinst-round scores: 64 L. Wastle (Aus; Lu Wen-Ten (Tai) Part No-Sock (S Not, 65 Cho Hyung- Iu Is Not, 66 Caw Moe (But) D Nuel (Sing) Cho Gwang-Soo (S Not; D Boulet (int) Chen Llang-the (Tai). Selected: 58 C Williams (GB) K Water (GB).

ice hockey NHL Flonds 5 Carolins 2, Montreel 4 ST Loute 3 f0Th, New Jersey 4 Editionton 2, Caligary 4 NY Rangers 1, Torono 5 Colondo 2 f0Th, Chica-go 3 Pricero 3 f0Th, Dellac 3 Tempo Bay 0, Prin-burgh 3 Anghelm 0, San Jose 3 Washington 3 f0Th

Railying Nagel Mansell, the former Formula One world champion, will take part in the 24-Hour Chamonix saloon car endurance race, which will be run on ice in the French Alps on 31 January

Rugby League Shaffield Eagles are to experiment with Saturday rugby in the 1998 Super League season. The Eagles have decided to switch their frome match. es at the Don Valley Stadium to Satuiday afternoons, kicking off at 315pm, in June and July to lest the

Heavy fog and drizzle forced organ-isers to cancel yesterday's women's World Cup Super-G statom at Val d'Isère in France. Squash

SWITTHINING SPRINGER STANDARD SPRINGS AND A COMMISSION OF THE SPRINGS AND A COMMISSION OF THE STANDARD SPRINGS AND A COMMISSION OF THE STANDARD A COMMISSION OF T

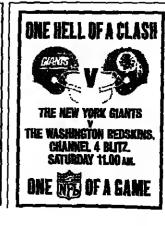
1:5833; 2 R Ashcroft (Wigan) 2:02:59, 3 T Knugasia (Leeds) 2:03:22 (Riscs will be re-run on Sunday following profest; but Hickman's World Champonship quasing time will stimel. Au200m treestyle: 1 University of Bath 7:32:7.

2 Chy of Leeds 7:38-51; 3 Portamonal Northese 7:44:08 Windowship 1:00m treestyle: 1 C Huddart (Leeds) 570; 2 K Pictoring (Issantin 5747: 3 M Merriral (South Lincs) 5782: 36m backstroke: 1 K Opher (Eding) 30:2; 2 K Ligghts (Norwich) 3044; 3 5 Price (Borned) 3054, 200m britastistics: 1 L Hardman's (Leeds) 2:374; 2 J King (Bath Univ 2:3151; 3 H Earp (Norwich) 2:334; 2:350 4:00m individual medicy; 1 H Carlyme) 233:60 400m individual medicy; 1 H Carl

Tennis Weightlifting
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Chiang Mai
Thail: Hen's Sile; 1 A Colei, Fell snach 1725
jeft 2075, Intel 3800, Women's 70kg; 1 Xung
Fengan (Chin) 1050, 1300, 2350.

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football 7.45 unless stated NATIONWIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Oxford Utd v QPR SECOND DIVISION Aristol Rovers v Grimsby THIRD DIVISION
Cembridge Utd v Exerer
HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE
OF IRELAND Premier Division:
Shebourne v St Petrick's Athletic (735).

Other sports **SWIRMING:** ASA National Winter Championships (Ponds Forge, Shaffeld).



CRICKET: CHAMPIONS' TROPHY

Stewart gem and guile of Fleming fire England

Derek Pringle reports from Sharjah England 250; India 243 Englond win by seven runs

The lights went on for the first time in Sharjah last night to illuminate a first win for Adam Hollioake's England team. Defending a total of 250, after Alec Stewart's hrilliant century, they squeezed home, as India, needing 12 runs from the final over, were bowled out seven runs short for 243.

As it invariably does whenever India play these days, the turning point came with the dismissal of Sachin Tendulkar, stumped by Stewart off the bowling of Matthew Fleming for 91. Prior to that moment, the Indian captain had brought his team within a bat's length of victory, with a near faultless display of how to chase runs under

But if Tendulkar's performance befitted a man whose experience extends to 168 one-day caps, spare a thought for Fleming, who with 167 caps less. bowled 10 telling overs at the death, a pressurised period, when the game could have gone either way.

Sweating profusely, and with his trademark Swan Vesta commixture of military precision and the guile of the backstreet hazaar. Indeed he was just the major component in a good day for the Kent bowlers on display, Headley chipped in with two wickets apiece.

Having learnt to cope with pressure captaining a group of squaddies on the streets of Belfast, Fleming's dehut was score around the 300 mark. probably a stroll in the park. Sensing the danger, India's cap-Thirty-three years old today, tain Tendulkar hrought himself Fleming's 4 for 45 bere has on to try his unadulterated dolsnown that just occasionally, in this ageist world, life can indeed art treated the assortment with be sweet and he must have run regal disdain by plonking suc-Stewart perilously close for the cessive rolled leg-breaks back

man of the match reward. In between the fine perforto some poor cricket. Although they fielded well, and bowled tidi-

Stewart, whose innings was simply a gem and one lustrous by standards. Strangely for a man playing his 91st one-day international, it was only his secagainst Pakistan at his beloved Oval in 1992,

Content at the start, to watch during the first 15 overs, Stewart opted instead to find the gaps at ground level. Employing a wristwork, he twice drove the ball back past India's tall opening

With Nick Knight adding his own, more muscular brand of strokeplay, the pair added 89 in as Mark Ealham and Dean 17 overs, before Knight, fied down by some clever off-spin bowling from Rajesh Chauhan,

131 for 2 and looking set for a ly mixtures. Unimpressed, Stew-

mances of the two, however, Hol- England's top four hatsmen lioake's men were not immune made double figures - the top order had the better of the conditions. The pitch, resem-

ly, the later order batting collapsed. Losing eight wickets for just 41 runs in the last 10 overs is not usual when it is the opposition who are under pressure.

Hollioake may be a staunch advocate of getting his side to play intensive cricket, yet he has to realise that it must be played with the head as well as the body, something the middle

even his own highly polished ond hundred, the other coming

his opening partner Alistair Brown attempt the aerial route ramrod straight bat and deft bowler Abey Kuruvilla for four.

ments to savour, these were but two sumptuous memories in a Babette's feast full of delicious explosions. Even when Brown was out, mistiming a lofted drive off Kuruvilla to Saurav Ganguly at mid-on, the velvet plexion, he operated with a carnage continued as India's bowlers were made to consid-

holed out at long-on.

order simply failed to do. The glaring exception was

Far from being isolated moer alternative occupations.

At this stage, England were

HOOdlights

over the bowler's head for four. his innings, Stewart began to lose

As the scores indicate - only

England's Alec Stewart cuts the ball to the houndary during his Innings of II6 in Sharjah yesterday Photograph: ChrisTurvey/Empics

bling a marble slab but coming wide long-hop onto his stumps. on like plasticine, made stroke-Once Stewart passed the hunplay difficult, particularly once dred mark, off just 92 balls, he the hardness had gone from the began to fade slightly and his disball, which as it dirtied with use. missal, caught by Azharuddin at also hecame progressively extra cover off Kumble, seemed difficult to pick up under the a somewhat inappropriate end to such an auspicious knock.

Having helped guide an ap-Later, when England prehensive looking Graeme bowled, he missed two early Hick through the early stages of catches - one sharp, the other regulation - off Dean Headley momentum. Having scratched behind the stumps. Making him open and keep wicket may yet about early on, Hick eventualhave to be reconsidered before ly made 32, including a towering straight six off the impressive that opening Test in Jamaica at the end of January. Chauhan, before dragging a

| | SHARJAH SCOREBOARD |
|---|---|
| | (India Won Toss) ENGLAND |
| | A D Brown c Ganguly b Kuruvilia |
| | N V Knight c Kumble b Chauhan |
| | G A Hea b Auruvilla |
| | M A Eatham run out |
| | M V Fleming c Karim b Sninath |
| | R O B Croft c kuruvilla b Srmath |
| ļ | 0 W Headley not out |
| | Total (49.5 overs)25 Fall: 1-42, 2-131, 3-209, 4-211, 5-215, 6-218, 7-232, |
| l | 237, 9-248. |

Bowling: Snnath 8.5-0-37-3; Kuruvilla 10-0-50-3; Kurn-ble 10-0-53-1; Singh 6-0-34-0; Ganguly 2-0-14-0; Chauhan 9-0-34-1; Tendulkar 4-0-24-0.

| | INDIA | |
|---|--|----------------|
| | | 20 |
| ~ | S C Ganguly b Eatham | CAMPANIA CA |
| 3 | S C Ganguly D Eatham | |
| ã | N S Sidhu c Hoficake b Eatham | |
| 2 | *S R Tendulkar st Stewart b Fleming | 91 |
| | *S R Tendulkar st Stewart b Fleming | 3 |
| Ä | A O Jadeja e Thorpe b Fleming | 50 |
| : | D D Charle Boy is Classes | 40 |
| ? | R R Singh low b Fleming | |
| 5 | A Kemble run out | |
| 9 | R K Chauhan b Fleming | 12 |
| 5 | J Smath b Headley | 3 |
| 5 | A Kuruvilla not out | 1 |
| í | Extras (lb3, w3, nb2) | Ř |
| | Total (49.3 overs) | O |
| 3 | 10120 1431-3 DVH 31 APPENDENT APPEND | |

Talk: 1-60, 2-64, 3-65, 4-74, 5-182, 6-207, 7-221, 8-232, 9-237.

Bowling: D R Brown 7-0-44-0; Headley 9-0-38-2; Ealharn 10-0-43-2; Hollioake 9-1-38-1; Croft 5-0-32-0; Fleming 9-2-0-45. Umpires: S A Bucknor (W Indies) and KT Francis (Sri Lanka).

FOOTBALL

Plans to put the game on another planet

The Football League went into space yesterday, as they named each of the five options for restructuring after one of the planets. Under another of the revolutionary proposals, clubs could face penalty shoot-outs.

As well as discussing the possible restructuring of the current format to include a Super League, the 72 club chairmen were contemplating radical rule

changes.

They include regionalisation of the league, awarding bonus points for teams leading at the end of each half and points for winning margins. And also on the agenda are penalty shootouts between sides after draws.

The league hope that by increasing the number of promotion and relegation places atstake, the number of "meaningless matches" can be minimised and interest increased.

The Football League chairman, David Sheepshanks, said: "I think it is essential that we address change. Of the 72 clubs 5g made an operational loss last year. The average share of TV revenue in the Premiership is £8m, in the league it is £800,000."

"In order to thrive in the future the Football League needs to become more market led and provide competition for its member clubs that best serves the needs of our customers. The five options for re-

structuring: 1 Option Earth represents the current structure of three divisions of 24 clubs with 10 promotion places up for grabs.

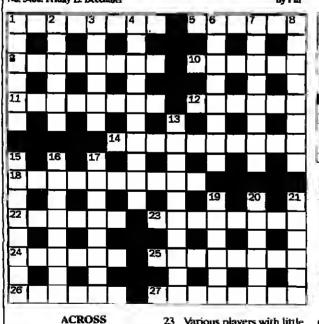
2 Option Mars proposes a First Division of 20 clubs, two divisions of 26 teams and with five clubs swapping places between division two and three, 11 promotion places available.

3 Option Jupiter would have four divisions of either 18 or 20 🐇 clubs. In the first instance, there would be 12 promotion places, in the second there would be 14 and eight clubs would need to be co-opted from the Vauthall Conference to make up the numbers.

4 Option Saturn proposes six divisions of 12 clubs each with 18 promotion places. This option also includes the possibillty of relegation play-offs meaning that in the six divisions. only one out of the 72 clubs would not be involved in either ntomotion of relegation issues at the end of the season.t -

5 Option Pluto would have a 12-club Super League, plus two divisions of 24 clubs and a further division with 12 memhers, giving 13 promotion places.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



thing used to the kitchen? 24 (3-5)

Boy found among most of elite dashing types (6) Trusted friend is to change and say nothing (5, 3)
10 Doctor rejected love rival in second-rate film (1-5) 11 Where you'll pay to cross

Forth – pounds put in also heading for Hull (8) 12 Team not bound to have a change of heart (6) 14 Material for defence in sharply-worded telegram

18 Firmly planted for all time? There's a surprise! (4,1,5)22 Some snare-drummer's

back to make a killing (6)

Various players with little time for old instrument (8) Anger about soccer ream that's knocked hack medicine (6) 25 Is graduate able to conceal

mistake? Capital (8) 26 New film turned me into a 27 Blade - you'll find end of it in agonised T S Eliot (8)

DOWN Man with many skills makes a suit (6) Story about avoiding booze

is gossip (6) 3 Slow pieces of music some popular - go slowly

hut not inclined to carouse

Go into place, appearing calm (8) 13 Started job reconstructing Pledge to clothe women -

I'm providing hikinis? (g) 16 Muralist at work shows generosity of spirit (S)
17 Fruit chap obtained from Irish town (g) 19 Girl wanting to catch lofted shot is all over the place

organised in company (6)

"Demon ale" would mis-

represent this! (8)

Bird and dog interact smoothly (8)

20 Animal that nips may cause worry without hesita-Drunk with added alcohol, 21 French hero Nev finally

RUGBY UNION

Brittle revives amateurism in plan for another new era

Two years ago rugby union struggled to accept the concept of professionalism. The switch from amateurism has been dogged with trouble and strife. Yesterday, the reforming radical, Cliff Brittle, delivered a new vision of the game which is bound to create a stir. David Llewellyn examines the proposals

Just 27 months after going professional rugby uninn is poised to revert to amateurism. If Cliff Brittle has his way the game in radical set of plans drawn up by the chairman of the Rugby Football Union's management board to get it hack on its financial feet.

Brittle's vision, entitled taken nine months to prepare and entails creating a two her and sponsors would he honmain professional, while clubs decade's time Twickenham amateur status, or at best semiprofessionalism,

There is also a plan to create an England Amateur XV videos of classic matches, such for which caps would be award- as England's draw against the ed, a reformation of the coun- All Blacks last weekend, to the introduced to restructure the ty championship which would sale to other television compabe the intermediate stage to full nies all over the world of live sional age in a commercial

that an amateur league. Brittle a complete match, or simply wants to see the changes im- highlights for sports proplemented and in place by

The reasons for what amounts to a total restructuring of the administration of the game were laid out by Brittle, who said: "The game is finanthat we are going at the moment. The first job is to balance the hooks. We are haemorrhaging money, while clubs are losing teams and players hecause they cannot afford to sustain them. The RFU has underachieved consistently when compared with the southern hemisphere unions."

To that end Brittle predicts that if his proposals, or similar, are adopted then Twickenham's England will next year adopt a annual turnover of £50m could be increased five or sixfold within the next 10 years. Chief contributor to a projected annual turnover of £250m-£300m would be the RFU's own television company. Brittle stressed "Rugby Restructure 2000", has that present contracts with BSkyB and other hroadcasters game. The top 24 clubs in the oured. But by the time the Allied Dunbar Premiership re- satellite deal runs out in a below that level would revert to could well have its own broadcasting company in place.

The spin-offs for RFU TV would rake in a lot of cash, from amateur honours, and below feeds, delayed transmission of manner.

grammes or clips for news hroadcasts.

Among Brittle's other proposals is the scrapping of the present council, comprising representatives of the counties and constituent bodies all over the cially unsustainable the way country and instead setting up five provincial unions. These would run the game at grass roots level more efficiently and cost effectively, Brittle believes, than Twickenham does at the At the professional end of

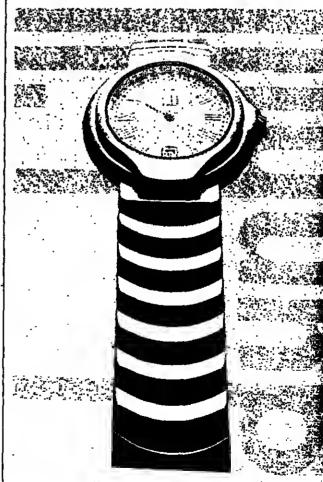
the game, Brittle envisages the formation of Club England which would he administered by a small board of experts. There would be a rationale vet to he worked out - to limit the number of overseas play-

ers currently playing top flight cluh rughy to the detriment of home-bred players. The whole paper, which was sent out to RFU council members yesterday, would have to be put to the 1998 AGM or an SGM, but in the meantime Brittle is happy to compromise

and adapt. All he insists upon

is that something is done. "We have wasted the last two years," Brittle said, referring to the time that has clapsed since the International Board announced the abandonment of the concept of amateurism, with no concrete plan being game and embrace the profes-

ALFRED DUNHILL LONDON



THE NEW MILLENNIUM WATCH (PRICES START PROM £650) ALFRED DUNHILL WATCHES ARE AVAILABLE AT SELECTED BRANCHES OF THE GOLDSMITHS GROUP, ONE OF THE LEADING QUALITY JEWELLERS IN THE COUNTRY WITH OVER 120 BEANCHES NATIONWIDE.

GOLDSMITHS & WALKER & HALL

CALL FREE ON 0800 G-O-L-D-S-M-I-T-H-S (0800 465376 TO FIND YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST.

 Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370. Saturday 12 December 1947 Repotered as a possessor with the Park Office

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print. St

ି ସେ ଜେ •

احكنا من الاعل

- Phil Casey Ferguson may buy, page 27